

## No more state cash for Leyland unless strikes end

The National Enterprise Board has told the Government that it can give no further funds to Leyland Cars and the Government has endorsed the decision. Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday. Only if strikes were ended and normal working restored and sustained would there be any possibility of further state aid. Mr Varley told Leyland workers that the company's fate was in their hands: "They can kill it or they can save it."

## Workers 'can kill or save firm'

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

In one of the gravest statements that he has made to the Commons since becoming Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Varley said yesterday that the National Enterprise Board had told the Government that it can give no further funds to Leyland Cars and the Government has endorsed the decision. Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday. Only if strikes were ended and normal working restored and sustained would there be any possibility of further state aid. Mr Varley told Leyland workers that the company's fate was in their hands: "They can kill it or they can save it."

Mr Varley said the Government fully endorsed the board's decision and he left the House in no doubt of its wide implications for the economy generally and for employment in many parts of the country.

But he presented one ray of hope for the company when he named three conditions on which government funds could be available. They would be: a complete return to normal working and to planned and agreed levels of output and productivity; after continuity of production had been established it must be sustained; the period until the time when the next tranche of funds would need to be sought must be used for discussions between management, unions and the workforce which would result in the proposed radical improvement in industrial relations.

The minister's dramatic announcement at the start of the emergency debate on British Leyland brought cries of protest from the Labour benches which could have left the Government in no doubt of the outrage to Labour's ranks.

Mr Varley made clear to MPs that the Government fully backed the National Enterprise Board and that the future of British Leyland's 10-year manufacturing programme was in serious peril. It could not be realised until there were dramatic improvements and they must take place immediately.

There was no prospect of seeing British Leyland as a viable car manufacturer unless



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, on a visit to Papua New Guinea, meets a tribesman who has been appointed a church warden at a newly built Anglican Church in the country's highland region.

## Gunmen kill fourth Ulster businessman

An Ulster businessman, Mr Donald Robinson, aged 56, was shot dead yesterday morning in his office in the Botanic Avenue area of south Belfast.

A gang of three men drove to Apex Ceilings, of which Mr Robinson was managing director. Two of the men ran into the office and one entered a room where Mr Robinson was talking to another man.

The two men were made to lie on the floor and Mr Robinson was shot in the back. The other man was left uninjured. The two gunmen ran to the waiting car and were driven off.

Mr Robinson was the fourth businessman to be assassinated since the beginning of February. He was married and his wife Colia helped him to run their business from the top floor of their home.

## Repair firms dropped from shipbuilding Bill

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

The Government finally accepted defeat over the ship-repairing sections of the aircraft and shipbuilding nationalization Bill in the Commons yesterday.

By agreement with the Opposition, the amended Bill will be rushed through the Lords and Commons so that it can become effective in the middle of this month.

As Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, explained, further delay in getting the Bill on to the statute book would have done grave damage to the aircraft and shipbuilding industries, which have been prepared for their new future under nationalized control. Therefore the ship-repairing section would be dropped.

The retreat represents a further acknowledgment by the Government of its precarious position in the Commons. Had the normal procedure been followed in the Lords the Bill could have been amended there, and the changes could have come back to the Commons in the summer without the Government's being able to muster a majority to reject them.

Abhorrent though it is to left-wing Labour MPs, the passage of the nationalization measure into law has been made possible only by the support of the Conservative Opposition and pledges given in secret talks. Lord Byers, leader of the Liberal peers, also gave a pledge for the Liberals. From now on the Government has to see a coalition of support on all its measures.

The Bill that was promised in the Queen's Speech to expand the direct-labour building departments of local authorities has been virtually abandoned because such a coalition cannot be found.

The devolution Bill is floundering while the Government has private talks with all parties to see if a coalition can be formed to support a revised Bill. As yet the individual MP find they have real power in their votes.

Conservative leaders were nervous last night about the way the party may regard the "agreement." They emphasized that they had given an undertaking to let the amended Bill through only after the Government had given an assurance that the deletion of ship-repairers would not be obstructed by Labour backbenchers.

They also pointed out that because of the terms of the Parliament Acts, under which the Government seeks to force the Bill through, there was little the Conservatives could do to block it.

It was pointed out that although the Government had a Commons majority of only one on hybridity, the Scottish nationalists supported the Bill. That meant that, even though the Lords might seek to amend

## Mr Smith faced by right-wing rebellion

From Michael Knipe  
Salisbury, March 2

Nine members of the ruling Rhodesian Front's parliamentary caucus staged a protest walkout from a caucus meeting here today. Their rebellion presents Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, with the most serious challenge to his leadership since he took office 13 years ago.

The nine, who include Mr Edward Sutton-Pryce, a Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's office, have rebelled over the Land Tenure Act amendment Bill, which is designed to modify racially discriminatory legislation. Its main provision would open up white farming land to all races and reduce the amount of land available exclusively to whites.

In addition to the nine who staged the protest walkout today, there are three other members of the caucus, absent from this morning's meeting, who are expected to join the rebellion during the debate.

If they do, so they will paralyze the Government. A two-thirds majority is necessary in the 66-seat House of Assembly to pass the legislation which is an amendment to the 1969 constitution. Thirteen of the 16 African Opposition members of the House announced today that they will abstain.

The Rhodesian Front holds all 50 white seats but if the rebellion persists the legislation will not be passed. This would be the Government's first parliamentary defeat since it came to power in 1962.

Mr Smith declined to comment on the rebellion when he arrived at Parliament today, but he said he was surprised that Mr Sutton-Pryce had joined the dissenters.

Another prominent rebel is Mr Reginald Cowper, who resigned as Minister of Defence and Coordination last month. In Parliament today he gave a belated explanation for his resignation stating as one reason, the "indiscipline and resort to half measures by the Government in the political field."

Mr Cowper said he felt no rancour but disillusionment and disappointment. He gave as other reasons for his resignation the fact that the Prime Minister dealt directly with the military commanders, bypassing the Defence Minister and the Cabinet, and the fact that the Cabinet accepted his efforts to cut down on exemptions and deferrals from military service.

At the end of his speech he said: "I now formally withdraw my support for the Government of the day." He sat down to a smattering of applause.

Although the full views of the 12 rebels are not yet known precisely it is clear that most of them have acted because they believe the Government's proposed amendments to the Land Tenure Act are a betrayal of the Rhodesian Front's most fundamental policies.

Both the chairman and the deputy chairman of the Rhodesian Front have expressed their condemnation of the Government's proposed reforms, and they are thought to speak for a sizable number of the more conservative party members.

## Williamson 'humiliation' at hands of Arts Council

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

Mr Malcolm Williamson, Master of the Queen's Music, delivered a scathing attack yesterday on the Arts Council for its lack of support of his work. He said his feelings were of "total disgust" and added that his refusal to make funds available for his new work, commissioned for the Three Choirs Festival, was "one more humiliation in a long list of humiliations."

Mr Williamson had been invited to speak at a press conference held, ironically, at the Arts Council premises in Piccadilly, to give details of this year's Gloucester Festival. He began by saying that he had seen the Queen last year about the possibility of dedicating the work, *Mass of Christ the King*, to her.

It had been "a very long task," he said, but the work was almost completed. But he added that lack of financial support had delayed him, and he still had serious doubts about whether it would be finished in time.

"My feelings towards the Arts Council are of total disgust because of its lack of support. It is one more humiliation in a long list of humiliations I have suffered from the Arts Council over a great many years."

"Being Master of the Queen's Music does not mean you are the best composer in Britain, but simply that you have a job to do and you are considered the best person to do that job."

Mr Angus Stirling, deputy secretary-general of the council, said later: "I am very sorry that such a distinguished person should choose this occasion on which to make a sweeping and unsubstantiated attack on our support for musicians."

After Mr John Sanders, the festival conductor, had said he was sure financial support would be forthcoming, Mr Williamson was asked about Arts Council support for him in the past. He said fees were "intimidatingly small"; in this case total rejection of the application for a commissioning fee.

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Unions say tanker will be held a prisoner

By Martin Huckerby

Britain's maritime trade unions said last night it was unlikely that the tanker *Globik Venus* would leave Le Havre unless the seven, Mr Ravi Tikko, settling his disputes with the Philippine crew.

Yesterday the unions were still discussing whether to boycott all the *Globik* fleet, but they have already taken action to prevent the ship sailing out of the French port under a British flag.

Even if the French unions fail to stop the ship leaving, the 34,000-ton tanker is now under the British flag and needs certificated British officers before under British law. It can sail, the unions believe they will stop Mr Tikko getting the necessary officers, although he claims he will be able to do so.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said that when *Globik* changed the ship's flag from the Bahamas to the British one, it had just been a ploy to enable the company to sack the original crew. But he said the fact that the ship was now under the British flag meant Mr Tikko's problems were "just beginning."

A British crew had been due to take over the vessel, but Mr Slater said the men had accepted his order not to leave for Le Havre.

Mr Eric Nevill, general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, said his members were to replace the non-British officers were ordered not to sail until the dispute was settled.

Mr K. A. Murphy, general secretary of the Radio and Electronic Officers' Union, said they had already withdrawn.

Continued on page 6, col 4

## Cut-price butter deals curbed

The European Commission yesterday decided to stop any further subsidized exports of butter to the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe "for the foreseeable future." Mr Roy Jenkins presided over the Commission's meeting in Brussels at which the decision was taken to bar any more deals of the type that has brought public outcry in EEC countries; the Soviet Union is paying only a third of the price charged to consumers in Community countries, and the sale of 36,000 tonnes is unaffected by the new move.

Page 6

## Reserves rise £445m

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currencies showed a large increase for the second consecutive month in February. Reviving confidence in the economy attracted large amounts of money into the country, forcing the Bank of England to buy foreign currencies to stop the pound rising too far. The reserves rose by \$591m (£445m) to a new peak of \$7,787m (£4,546m).

## Housing disclosure today

The full contents of the Building Economic Development Council's unpublished report on national housing policy are likely to be disclosed today by Mr Robin Ross, opposition spokesman on housing and land. Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, denied yesterday that the report was being suppressed.

Page 2

## Income tax spiral

Britons had to pay more last year to cover a £104m increase in the Inland Revenue costs of collecting taxes. Rising overheads are attributed to Finance Act changes, more taxpayers, and more complicated taxation. Tax revenues rose by £4,750m.

Page 5

## Students' fee protests

Students from about a hundred colleges have joined protests against government proposals to increase tuition fees. There were occupations, picketing, lobbying and demonstrations. At Warwick and Bath universities the vice-chancellors took part in teach-ins. The National Union of Students is calling for a one-day strike on March 9.

Page 3



## 'Times' reporters win journalist awards

Mrs Geraldine Norman, Sala Room Correspondent of *The Times* (above), has won the title of News Reporter of the Year for her series on forged paintings. Mr Neville Hodgkinson, also of *The Times*, is commended today. British Press Awards announced today by Mr Brian Ross, opposition spokesman on housing and land. Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, denied yesterday that the report was being suppressed.

Page 2

## Jubilee scholarships

National jubilee scholarships for science and engineering are likely to be introduced by the Government this year, Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education, told a conference at Preston. He said they would be glittering prizes to which the winners could look back in middle age.

Page 5

## Women's charter

The TUC has revised its programme for working women, adding new demands on pensions, family planning and abortion.

Page 5

## Fishing fines cut

Fines of £12,000 and £10,000 imposed on two Danish skippers for illegal fishing have been cut to £2,500.

Page 9

## Romania: Well-known priest cannot leave

Bucharest after being tricked into returning from his home in London.

Page 7

## Price Commission stops some bread increases

By Hugh Clayton

Imminent price increases on bread were cut by the Price Commission yesterday. Bakers had wanted to charge an extra 1p on large and small loaves next week, but the rise will probably now apply to large loaves only.

The timing of the announcement was unusual, since the final shop price of bread is decided by the Government. The cut was made because the commission rejected a part of the bread claim that covered rises in discounts negotiated this year between bakers and grocers. The Federation of Bakers said the commission's interpretation was perverse.

The commission justified its decision by saying that treating

## discount increases as allowable

costs would have forced some grocers to pay more for bread because others were paying less. The difficulty arose this year because in January the Government ended a clamp on discount levels, which had lasted more than 18 months.

Butter should be sold to British pensioners, Mr Derrick Bony, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, told reporters. He added: "I think they could get rid of some of it by bringing it in to the old folks in this country."

But he added: "This would make only a small dent in the mountain. The mountain is growing faster than you can remove it."

## Shipyard chief delighted

Parliamentary report, page 8

### Northampton

Northampton is the major shopping and commercial centre for the area. New offices, factories and sites are available. It has easy access to the M1 motorway and lies midway between London and Birmingham. It's an ideal centre for distribution.

Northampton's new employment and residential areas are attractively landscaped. Houses are available for employees of firms moving to the town.

Northampton has much more to offer. To find out how much, write to L. Austin-Crowe, Chief Estate Surveyor to Northampton Development Corporation, 2-3 Market Square, Northampton NN1 2EN or phone 0604 34734 and ask to speak to him.

## Amin men stop Olympic winner

Nairobi, March 2.—John Akii-Bua, the former Ugandan 400-metre hurdler and Olympic gold medal winner in Munich, was stopped by President Amin's security men at his house in Kampala over the weekend. Ugandan refugees said here today.

Both Mr Akii-Bua and Mr David Odu, a former national football coach, were taken to be "elimination chambers" at Kakumira military jail. Mr Akii-Bua is a senior police superintendent.

Continued on page 7

Home News	2-5	Business	17-23	Features	9, 14	Sale Room	16	Theatres, etc	13
European News	6	Church	15	Law Report	16	Snow Report	16	Universities	16
Overseas News	6, 7	Court	15	Letters	15, 18	Sport	10, 11	Weather	2
Appointments	16	Crossword	28	Motoring	27	TV & Radio	27	Wills	15
Arts	13	Diary	16	Obituary	16				
Books	12	Engagements	16	Parliament	8				







## HOME NEWS

## Move to save tax-free gratuities of aircrew

By Arthur Reed

Efforts were being made within the Ministry of Defence yesterday to save the tax-free gratuities of up to £5,000 that have been promised to military aircrew, the Health and Social Security Secretary said.

According to government sources, about 450 men, pilots and aircrew officers in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, all on short-term engagements will be affected.

Those men had a choice of three career schemes when they signed on. They could serve for 16 years to qualify for a "sizeable" gratuity which would be paid after eight or 12 years with a tax-free gratuity of £2,750 or £5,000 respectively.

But under the Social Security Act people in civilian employment must be paid a pension if they work for an employer for five years from the age of 21. It is that scheme that the Department of Health and Social Security wants to extend to the Services from April 1, which would result in the aircrew receiving a pension at the age of 60 rather than the gratuity they were promised when they joined.

The proposal by the department is retrospective and so would affect officers on 12-year contracts who joined the Services as long ago as 1966.

One of the attractions of joining the Services on a short-term contract has been the "tax-free gratuity" which officers have traditionally used to set themselves up in civilian life. Recruitment for that type of service is likely to be reduced if the rules are changed.

There is a strong feeling among the officers who would be affected if the department's plan goes through that the Government is going back on a bargain it struck when they entered the Service. They were slightly heartened yesterday by the knowledge that the Ministry of Defence, their employer, is fighting the case on their behalf with the Civil Service.

The Department of Health and Social Security said last night, "The White Paper Strategy for Pensions in 1971, which introduced the preservation of pensions proposals, made it clear that members of the Armed Forces would normally have to be provided with preserved pensions on the same basis as members of any other occupational pensions scheme."

"It was recognised that these proposals would have implications for the arrangements by which certain officers receive a gratuity at the end of their Service commission. But the Government's view is that it would be inconsistent with the aim of preservation to allow the payment of a gratuity to take away the right to a preserved pension, since such arrangements are not available to any other occupational pension scheme and its members."

Leading article, page 15

## 'Irregularities' at mental hospital

Detectives are questioning staff at Carstairs state mental hospital, Strathclyde, over allegations of irregularities, including the taking of drink into the hospital, it was disclosed yesterday.

The allegations were made by a doctor. A separate public inquiry is to be held on March 21 into an escape attempt from the hospital that ended in the violent death of a patient, a male nurse and a policeman.

## Mr Callaghan in devolution talks about talks

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Callaghan is to see Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, today and Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Conservative Party, on Monday, to discuss the devolution of powers to Scotland and Wales. The talks will form a preliminary sounding to the Government's proposal that there should be all-party talks on devolution.

Mr Callaghan, Leader of the House and the Cabinet minister responsible for the devolution Bill, is arranging talks with the nationalist parties in the Commons again on an exploratory basis to discover whether there could be an all-party meeting. While the Scottish National Party has announced that it will introduce its own Bill on devolution, the Welsh Nationalist Party has announced that it will introduce its own Bill on devolution.

One Labour Party member admitted that the party faced a difficult job explaining to the Scottish people the reasons for the devolution Bill.

## 100,000 students join tuition-fee protests

By Judith Judd, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

More than 100,000 students from about a hundred colleges took action yesterday in protest against the Government's proposed tuition-fee increases.

There were occupations at about thirty colleges, and teachers, picketing, lobbying and demonstrations at many more. Last night the National Union of Students called for a one-day strike of its 800,000 members on March 9.

Some of the occupations such as those at City, Brunel, Sheffield and Kent universities began several days ago and are expected to continue today.

At Warwick and Bath universities the vice-chancellors, Dr John Butterworth and Professor P. T. Matthews, took part in peace-line discussions with the Vice-Chancellors and Principals.

Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said: "The day of action is alienating sympathetic people in higher education. It is making it easier for the Government to impose very bad, unfair legislation."

## Cambridge company offers Gaelic by post

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

A renewal of interest in Gaelic was reflected in the launch yesterday of Gaighlig Bheo, otherwise Living Gaelic, which is claimed to be the first audio-lingual correspondence course in the national language of Scotland.

An Comann Gaichealach, the foremost national society in Scotland for promoting the Gaelic language and culture, commissioned the course, which is available from the National Extension College, Cambridge, for £30. Using four books and six cassette tapes, the tuition is given in the form of a self-paced course. The course is being appraised by education

authorities for use in schools. Scotland has about 89,000 Gaelic speakers, mainly in the Highlands and in the Western Isles, where the local authority follows a bilingual policy.

Interest in the language, literature and culture of the Gael is thriving. The most recent census showed a sharp increase in the number of Gaelic speakers for the first time, but the growth, according to Mr Colin Spencer, of An Comann, has been frustrated by a lack of courses in Gaelic and suitable textbooks.

Two years of work has gone into the course, written by Mr Jake MacDonald, senior lecturer in Gaelic at Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow.

Remarriages of widows and widowers fell slightly, and remarriages of divorced people rose by 5 per cent. About one in six of those marrying were divorced and half of those married someone who was also divorced. The combination of two divorced people remarried has recently been increasing by about 7 per cent a year.

More than half the marriages in 1975 involved a religious ceremony although, the trend to more civil marriages continued.

There were 380,600 marriages in 1975, 6,200 fewer than the previous year. Although the fall in first marriages was less than in 1973 or 1974, rates of first marriage analysed by age group were still falling, except for those over 30.

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## Fewer marry and more are seeking divorces

By Our Social Policy Correspondent

Marriages in England and Wales continue to fall in number and divorces to increase, according to figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Divorce decrees made absolute in 1975 numbered 120,500, seven thousand more than in 1974. The increase is about the same as that between 1973 and 1974, and suggests that the trend has settled down after erratic movements when the Divorce Law Reform Act came into force in 1971.

Most people who obtain a divorce do so in their late twenties, and the commonest duration of a marriage ending in divorce is four years. But more than a fifth of the marriages that ended in 1975 had lasted more than 20 years.

The number of couples divorcing while they still had children under 15 rose by 8 per cent in 1975, compared with 1974, whereas those without children rose by only 4 per cent.

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Each value has a slightly different design.

## Philatelists find jubilee stamps dull

By Craig Seton

A set of four silver jubilee postage stamps issued to mark the Queen's accession to the throne was criticised yesterday as "humdrum", "unimaginative" and "old-fashioned" by philatelists attending the annual Stamp exhibition in London, but it was not without its admirers.

The stamps will be available at post offices from May 11 to coincide with a jubilee tour of the nation by the Queen, which starts in mid-May. They are in values of 8p, 10p, 11p and 13p, and are described by the Post Office as reminiscent of stamps issued in 1935 to commemorate the silver jubilee of George V.

The 8p stamp is printed in pale blue, grey, deep olive, black and silver; the 10p in ochre, grey, royal blue, black and silver; the 11p in rose-pink, grey, deep magenta, black and silver; and the 13p in olive-yellow, grey, agate, black and silver.

They were designed by Mr Richard Guyatt, professor of graphic art at the Royal College of Art, London.

It was the similarity to the 1935 issue that brought much criticism and some praise at the Stamp exhibition.

Mr Douglas Muir, assistant editor of Stamp Collecting magazine, said the design was classic and he rather liked it, although the Queen's expression was rather severe.

Mr Charles Hodgson, vice-chairman of Stampex, said: "They do not excite me. I am disappointed because here was a genuine opportunity to design a new line."

Dr Jean Alexander, a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, said the design was old-fashioned. Mr Denis Vitor, a collector from Amersham, Buckinghamshire, said: "They convey little of what has happened over these past 25 years, and no thought appears to have been put into them."

Mr Lorna Swindell, a London collector, was delighted with the design. "They are right for a formal and traditional occasion of this type."

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Mr Lorna Swindell, a London collector, was delighted with the design. "They are right for a formal and traditional occasion of this type."

The stamps will be available at post offices from May 11 to coincide with a jubilee tour of the nation by the Queen, which starts in mid-May. They are in values of 8p, 10p, 11p and 13p, and are described by the Post Office as reminiscent of stamps issued in 1935 to commemorate the silver jubilee of George V.

The 8p stamp is printed in pale blue, grey, deep olive, black and silver; the 10p in ochre, grey, royal blue, black and silver; the 11p in rose-pink, grey, deep magenta, black and silver; and the 13p in olive-yellow, grey, agate, black and silver.

They were designed by Mr Richard Guyatt, professor of graphic art at the Royal College of Art, London.

It was the similarity to the 1935 issue that brought much criticism and some praise at the Stamp exhibition.

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## Community-care cash doubled next year

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities will get twice last year's money, in real terms, next year for community care projects financed jointly with local authorities, Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday. They will be allocated £21m in 1977-78, compared with £10.5m.

Joint financing was introduced this financial year to improve community facilities for the neediest groups, particularly elderly people, the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

The extra money has helped to halt cuts in residential and day care projects, the first to go in social service spending reductions. It has also helped hospitals to take a closer interest in rehabilitating patients who no longer need medical care but have nowhere to live.

The new joint financing allocation will be shared among areas in proportion to population but weighted according to the number of people in priority groups. The present programme of jointly financed projects includes new homes and day centres for the mentally ill and elderly, community hostels for discharged psychiatric patients, and training centres for the mentally handicapped.

Most areas receiving the larger share of joint financing money will also benefit most from the new capital and revenue cash limits for the health service in England, also announced by Mr Ennals yesterday.

The 14 English national health regions will be subject to an overall cash limit of £4,138m in 1977-78, with an overall increase in revenue of about 1.4 per cent in real terms over this year. That allows for present pay and price levels and expected increases up to the end of next March.

The Northern, North Western and Trent regions, which the Resource Allocation Working Party says are deprived areas, will have revenue allocations of about 3 per cent more. The four Thames regions, covering the London and South-east areas that have previously been comparatively well endowed with health service money, will be allowed increases of about 1 per cent.

Capital allocations will allow very few new projects to be started next year, but Mr Ennals made clear yesterday that none already begun will be stopped.

The agreement, under which all editorial staff joining the newspaper are obliged to join the National Union of Journalists, was held to be contrary to the society's rules and to bring into dispute one of its principal objects: maintenance of a defensive organization in industrial relations.

The EEC's European Investment Bank is to lend the National Water Council £8.3m to improve water supplies to north-west England. The loan, at 8.75 per cent for nine years, is mainly for the construction of three aqueducts.

The longest will run for 17 miles to connect the river Wyre with Houghton in Lancashire, another 14 miles long will link the Haweswater reservoir in the Lake District to the existing Haweswater aqueduct, and the Lams and Wyre rivers will be joined by an eight-mile aqueduct.

More than three-quarters of dairy herds in England and Wales are free of brucellosis, the disease that causes cows to abort and can produce chronic illness in human beings, according to a survey by the veterinary research unit of the Milk Marketing Board.

The number of infected herds has fallen by more than a third in the past year. It is hoped to eradicate the disease by the early 1980s.

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## HOME NEWS

# Report on boy killed by stepfather urges more training for JPs in handling 'battered baby' cases

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Several government departments are to discuss whether childcare cases should be handled differently in the light of the report on Wayne Brewer, aged four, who was killed by his stepfather after being removed from a care order and sent home by magistrates.

The report, published yesterday, called for more training for magistrates to help them in dealing with "battered baby" cases. A special study of whether the Scottish children's panel system would be preferable to juvenile courts, and for more sections of the Children Act to be implemented.

Mr John Clark, chairman of the review panel set up to consider the boy's death, said in Taunton, Somerset yesterday that it was an inescapable con-

clusion that the magistrates' decision to allow the boy to go home to his parents contributed to his death.

The magistrates decided to allow Wayne Brewer home in spite of the opposition of social workers, who feared he would be at considerable risk of injury there. They placed him under a supervision order, with a recommendation that he should be visited three or four times a week, but staff shortages in Somerset ruled that out.

Mr Christopher Andrews, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, said yesterday that the chair-

man of the magistrates knew his recommendation was impossible to meet. Declaring that he was doing it to provide the social services department with a lever to acquire additional resources was "at best

naive, and at worst utterly irresponsible."

Mr Andrews suggested that adopting the Scottish panel system should not wait for an independent study, and called for the full implementation of the parts of the Children Act allowing for independent representation of children in care cases.

Mr John Chant, director of social services for Somerset, yesterday supported the idea of the more informal children's panel system being introduced in England and Wales because he was not sure that the adversarial procedure enabled magistrates to obtain the fullest information.

He pointed out that psychiatric reports on the parents were not made available to the court when Wayne Brewer's future was considered.

## Bill to curb breaches of planning laws progresses

By Our Parliamentary Staff

A private member's Bill to extend the powers of local planning authorities to serve stop notices under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, was successfully piloted through its committee stage in three Commons yesterday by its promoter, Mr Dudley Smith, Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington.

Mr Smith told the standing committee that the main aim of his Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill was to try to stamp out those who had a flagrant disregard for others through breaches of planning controls that particularly affected local residents. He cited businesses involving banging, loud noises, burning of tyres and other unsocial activities inappropriate to residential areas.

Mr Barnett, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said the Government was generally in favour of the five-page Bill, which was also supported by backbench Labour, Conservative and Liberal MPs during the committee stage, which took only 55 minutes.

Amendments moved by Mr Smith to provide that stop notices might not prohibit the use of land for the purposes of siting a residential caravan and to the long title to allow the Secretary of State for Wales to exercise some of the Bill's provisions were accepted.

The Bill gives local planning authorities who have served an enforcement notice in respect of any land power to serve a stop notice prohibiting the carrying out of any activity that is alleged in the enforcement notice to constitute a breach of planning control.

Provision is made for prosecution of people contravening a stop notice. Consequential amendments are made to the provisions of the Act concerning compensation for loss due to the service of a stop notice.

Powers are given to the Secretary of State to require information about the uses of land.



Mr Frankie Howard, OBE, the comedian, and Sir Norman Hartnell, KCVO, dressmaker to the Queen, outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving the insignia of honours awarded at the new year.

## BBC plan to show all of Shakespeare to cost £5m

By our Arts Reporter

The BBC's plan to produce all 37 plays of Shakespeare on television over six years, beginning next January, is to cost £5m. About two fifths of this will be paid by Time-Life of America, but the BBC will retain artistic control.

In each of the six years BBC 2 will present a six-week season, probably in the autumn, of at least six plays. The BBC emphasized yesterday that its main aim would be to provide entertainment for British viewers, but it hopes also that American universities may buy copies of the plays.

The provisional list of the first six plays is: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Richard III*, *The Tempest* and *Othello*. The programme will run for about two and a quarter hours, which means that some of the plays will be split. The three parts of *Henry VI*, for example, will be recorded as two plays, and *Hamlet* may be produced in two parts.

Some of the plays will be filmed on location: *Henry VIII* at Berkeley Castle, *As You Like It* at Glamis, for example. No decisions have been taken about foreign locations or about casting, but Mr Cedric Messina, the producer who will launch the project, is to seek leading British actors and actresses.

The style of the plays is to be studied carefully. Mr Shamus Sutton, head of BBC television drama, said yesterday that the style must be valid for the next 12 years, allowing for the initial six-year period and repeats.

"There is no question," he said, "of giving the project a mid-Atlantic look. Any attempt to do that would result in its sinking without trace in those cold waters."

### Visit to Canada

Mr Callaghan is to visit Canada on March 12 for talks with Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister. He will be accompanied by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary.

## Boy died after care order was lifted

Yesterday's report is based on the findings of an inquiry launched after Nigel Briffett, aged 23, had been jailed for five years at Bristol Crown Court last October for the manslaughter of Wayne Brewer, his stepson.

In April, 1974, the boy, who lived with his mother, Elaine, now aged 21, and his stepfather at Queen's Road, Bridgewater, Somerset was taken into the care of Somerset County Council after the social service department had told Sedgemoor Juvenile Court of injuries to the boy, which had been treated in hospital. An attempt by his mother to have the order revoked failed in March, 1975.

Three months later a further application was granted, against the advice of social workers. The court imposed a three-year supervision order instead, and the boy returned home. He died at the hands of his stepfather less than a year later.

The report says: "Greater emphasis should be given in the training of magistrates in the topic of non-accidental injury to children."

Referring to the court's

supervision order, which recommended three or four visits a week to the Briffett's household by social workers, the report suggested that the court felt "there was some considerable degree of risk".

"We think that the magistrates may well have felt reluctant to rule against the supervision order even with intensive visiting. This led the court, in our view, to think that they could find a middle course, whereas, in fact, there was none."

The report recommends that suitably qualified social workers should be treated as expert witnesses when giving evidence based on professional opinion. The police should be invited to attend case conferences, where there was reason to suspect battering and they should be asked to interview directly when their investigative skills could provide important information.

The report referred to an incident in March 1976, when a health visitor received a report from a neighbour that Wayne Brewer had a black eye. A case conference might have resulted in a decision to ask the police to investigate the injury, the report said.

That might have obtained clear evidence of ill treatment, which would have warranted an application to the court. The report noted that after Wayne Brewer had been returned to his parents no case conference was called. The panel considered that one should have been convened.

The report said that at first the panel found it difficult to reconcile the history of the child's last few weeks of life as seen by the social worker and others and the Crown Court judge's finding that there had been "a pretty long history of violence and intimidation" and "systematic ill treatment".

The report said: "We would have expected an experienced consultant paediatrician, social worker, and health visitor, all of whom were on the alert to spot any injury to Wayne, to have recognized it immediately."

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## Coal supply plans beyond year 2000

By Ronald Kershaw

Detailed proposals for exploiting coal reserves known to extend from Thorne, South Yorkshire, eastwards into Lincolnshire and northwards to Humberside are being prepared by the Yorkshire area headquarters of the coal board for submission to the national board.

The board said yesterday that efforts were being directed towards assuring supplies of coal until the year 2000 and beyond.

Coal board officials are unavailable but restrict themselves to saying that there is "a lot of coal". Detailed provings of the Thorne field have gone four or five miles beyond the previous Thorne colliery workings to such places as Swinefleet and Crowle, in Humberside.

### £5,000 a crash

The estimated average cost to the community of a motorway accident involving injury is £5,000, Mr Horam, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said in a parliamentary written reply yesterday.

## Proportion of foreign students worries TUC

By Sue Reid of The Times Higher Education Supplement

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, expressed concern yesterday over the high number of overseas students occupying higher and further education places.

He said the TUC was concerned about the many openings to engineering and technology courses that had not been taken up by home students and he disclosed that 37 per cent of students on full-time polytechnic courses in these subjects were from abroad.

"I accept that it is desirable that we should encourage overseas students to study here and I can understand the argument that Britain has an important contribution to make to the third world."

"But the tragedy is that this is not part of a conscious or planned policy for overseas aid but a by-product of the failure of British education and industry to generate the supply and demand of scientists and engineers for British industry."

He said at a conference in London to mark the tenth anniversary of polytechnics that the situation illustrated the defect that for the most British people

education finished at 16. It was also lamentably true that the proportion of higher-education places filled by manual workers' children had not significantly changed since the Second World War. The TUC had made proposals to give mature people access to education. Institutions should be prepared to waive the normal entrance requirements and set progressively rising targets for the intake of unqualified mature students.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, who said she was disappointed by the level of expansion in part-time polytechnic courses, called on industry to identify its needs. "We must encourage more young people to aim for a career in the wealth-producing industries on which this country's future so largely depends," she said.

Overseas students had much to contribute to higher education, but their numbers had to reflect the needs of under-developed countries.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, told the conference that four fifths of the overseas students in higher and further education were from the under-developed world.

## Witness made allegations against 42 policemen

James Humphreys, the former club owner, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had made allegations about 42 police officers. He had made the allegations since being sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for his part in a knife attack on his wife's lover, a crime he insists he did not commit.

Mr Humphreys agreed that, apart from his chain of pornography bookshops, which earned him £216,000 in three years, he was engaged in international pornography, sex boutiques and strip clubs, and once had an interest in a Soho brothel.

Asked if his fortune from all his interests was nearer £500,000, Mr Humphreys said he did not keep books of accounts. His income was something like £100,000 a year in cash.

Mr Humphreys was giving evidence at the trial of six former detectives with the obscene publications squad. They have variously denied 27 charges of conspiracy and accepting bribes from pornography traders.

The defendants are Wallace Virgo, aged 39, a former commander, of the Wallcut Garden, Horse Lane Orchard, Ledbury, Hereford; Alfred Moody, aged 51, retired detective chief superintendent of Elmstone Road, Weybridge, Surrey; Rodney Lawrence Tilley, aged 46, a former detective inspector and now licensee of the Rule and Square, Epsom, Surrey; Leslie Frank Alton, aged 48, a retired police inspector, of Harefield Avenue, Chess, Surrey; Bernard Peter Brown, aged 44, a retired detective constable, now publican of the Plough Inn, Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey; and David Gareth Lee Hamer, aged 34, a detective sergeant suspended from duty, of Courtwood Lane, Addington.

Cross-examined by Mr Robin Simpson, QC, for the defence of Mr Moody, Mr Humphreys said he once had a villa at Ibiza, a yacht, and a farm at Hawkhurst, Kent. Apart from

his pornographic bookshops in London he dealt in international pornography in Holland, Denmark, Sweden and the United States.

He illegally imported pornography into Britain and had had several loads seized by the customs.

He became alarmed and despondent after learning that Det Chief Supt Bert Wickstead, of the serious crimes squad, was after him. Mr Humphreys admitted associating with well known criminals. He also recalled being arrested by Mr Wickstead's team near Amsterdam on June 15, 1973.

Referring to a brothel, Mr Humphreys said he had a house in Greek Street, Soho, London, in partnership with Bernard Silver for two years. They rented the flats to some Maltese, who put prostitutes in them.

When it was suggested that his wife, Rusty, had been convicted of brothel-keeping in respect of the Greek Street address, Mr Humphreys said: "She had nothing to do with it whatsoever but the building was in her name." The flats were let at £200 a week and he paid £1,350 a quarter for the building.

Mr Humphreys agreed with Mr Donald Farquharson, QC, for the defence of Mr Virgo, that in one year he had bought two Rolls-Royces and a Mercedes for his wife, and made frequent holiday trips. He said his activities were antisocial and not criminal. But he was in contact with the police every day.

He had made no conditions with the police about his evidence but had asked for an inquiry into his case. Mr Farquharson asked: "If you had not had that assurance, would you have given evidence in this case?" Mr Humphreys replied: "I do not think I would."

The trial continues today.

### Child-murder charge

Mrs Kay Cooks, aged 26, of Primrose Street, Tonypandy, Mid Glamorgan, was remanded in custody until next Tuesday by magistrates at Porth yesterday, charged with murdering her daughter, Gaynor, aged four, on Monday.

### Seamen remanded

Gregory Odiwe, aged 39, and Solomon Makindoo, aged 34, two Nigerian seamen, were remanded in custody for a week by Hull magistrates yesterday, accused of being concerned with illegally importing nearly 300lb of cannabis.

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## HOME NEWS

## 'Glittering prize' of national scholarships may start this year

from Tim Devlin

National jubilee scholarships offering glittering prizes to sixth-formers who specialize in science and engineering are likely to be introduced by the Government.

Mr Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that discussions along these lines were being held with the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC, the Department of Industry and other departments. The amount of money to be awarded and the number of scholarships were still being discussed.

Mr Oakes was speaking at a press conference at Preston, where the third of the Government's one-day regional conferences on education is taking place. He said that this year being jubilee year, was an ideal time for national scholarships to be introduced. They will concentrate on excellence in practical science and engineering, so that youngsters will see them at sixth-form level (age 16 to 18) as glittering prizes in which they can look back in 40 years' time.

Mr Oakes said he was attracted by the idea that the scholarships should be tied to

specific jobs. Industries should be encouraged to "court" youngsters who won them and take them on at the end of their academic studies.

He complained that industry was not tapping the talents of girls. "Engineering is a precise art. Girls can do it just as well as boys if not better," he said.

Mr C. G. Hallows, a Liverpool city councillor, suggested that 400 industrial scholarships should be awarded every year. Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said the Engineering Training Board had difficulty in finding girls to take up technical apprenticeships. It was difficult to interest schools in putting girls forward and many girls had not the mathematical ability to take up the apprenticeships. Most of the minority of girls who were good at mathematics intended going to university.

Mr Oakes said that he would like headmistresses to develop opportunities for girls in technical subjects to widen their horizons and to teach them the value of careers in industry. There were a great many girls in teacher-training colleges and he wondered where they would go.

## Bus fares may be elastic but economics do not change

By Philip Howard

A transport study published today, after months of study and jangles of impenetrable sociologies, comes to the conclusion that when bus fares go up fewer people use the buses.

That portentous finding is the work of the transport studies group of the Polytechnic of Central London, and is published under the title *Fare Elasticities on Inter-Urban and Rural Bus Services*. The price of the 77 pages of the publication could also be described as elastic: £5 in the United Kingdom, £7.50 overseas.

For the money, however, you get some remarkable insights into bus travel dressed up in even more remarkable jargon. Interviewers spent months on the buses around Morpeth in Northumberland and on the

routes between Sheffield and Doncaster asking the passengers pertinent questions.

The study makes the remarkable discovery that increasing fares may reduce revenue, and that off-peak reductions may actually increase revenue. It says: "While government thinking and planning is (sic) based on the belief that fare increases have little effect on passenger demand, this study concludes that demand for rural and inter-urban services may be much more sensitive to fare changes."

The study supports the present policy of tapering fares, where cost a mile falls as trip length increases, so long as very high rates a mile are avoided on short journeys. It finds that local factors should be taken into account when considering fare levels.

### Murder charge

Joseph Shields, aged 31, of Hall Place, Paddington, London, was remanded in custody until today week at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday, accused of murdering Emmanuel Alomab, aged 21, a student, outside Paddington station.

### Footballer banned

Gerry O'Hara, aged 20, of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, was fined £115 and banned from driving for 12 months by Wolverhampton magistrates yesterday for driving with excess alcohol, without insurance, and with a deflated tyre.

## Government could peg farm prices, Lords told

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government, within the EEC's package of farm price proposals, would be able to fix prices for British producers so as to give them scope for expansion, Mr Strang, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday. But he told a Lords committee on agriculture and consumer affairs that "if this is not achieved it will be because of the balance we have to strike between producers and consumers."

Mr Strang had said earlier that the effect of the support package on retail average prices in Britain might be about 4 per cent, or 1 per cent in the retail price index. But he emphasized that such figures must be looked at "somewhat sceptically" because much depended on production levels. "We are talking about the effect of these institutional prices on market prices in the next year."

Much of the session was confined to discussion of what Lord Macleod of Benhie called "the bugbear" of the milk section, which he felt was the key to the whole package. "Will the measures do the job?" he asked the minister.

Mr Strang replied: "Judged against previous price proposals the current commission proposals are better than might have been expected. But judged against the scale of the problem, which is the real test, they are a step in the right direction but do not go far enough." That was particularly relevant to milk, which he agreed was the core of the package. And that was where the difficult bargaining would take place.

The minister saw no case for an increase in the common price of milk. "We think this enormous surplus, which is very costly, is a monstrous misuse of Community resources," he said.

Almost inevitably the butter mountain then came in for condemnation, too. Lady Tweedsmuir of Belhelvie said the decision to dispose of it was administrative taken by the commission. Surely it would be best dealt with by the council? And could not the butter be sold to pensioners or those on supplementary benefit?

Mr Strang said any issue of sufficient political importance could be brought before the council. And he added: "Whatever the procedural niceties, the Community's history shows that if the measure is a gut political issue then it will be resolved in the council."



Bernard Leach, the potter, contemplating some of his finest work at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The museum's special exhibition, open until May 8, marks his ninetieth birthday

## Britons pay more to have taxes collected

By David Felton

Britain's taxpayers not only had to hand over more money to the Inland Revenue last year but also suffered the ignominy of having to pay more for the privilege.

The Inland Revenue Board, in its annual report for the year ending last March, says that while income tax revenue rose by £4,750m over the previous year its own costs of collecting the taxes rose by more than £104m.

It attributes increased overheads to changes in the two Finance Acts in 1975, the growth in the number of taxpayers, and increasingly complicated taxation.

About a quarter of the extra six thousand or so staff recruited during the year were needed because of extra work arising out of the Finance Acts. But more than half the extra staff were needed to deal with the increase in the number of taxpayers and their more complicated tax affairs.

The report says 600 people joined the Inland Revenue, at a cost of about £2m, to cope with more people moving into the higher income and investment income surcharge groups. But the board says the higher

cost of collection is not an indication of inefficiency. Efforts are constantly being made to improve efficiency.

One such move is the board's plan that by 1982 all routine collection duties and pay as you earn will have been transferred to computer systems. By the mid-1980s it is hoped to have all routine assessment and collection functions transferred to computers.

Total tax revenue for the year amounted to £28,146m, with income tax accounting for more than half for the first time. Surtax payments were £108m, or 0.4 per cent of the total.

Surtax, which represented 2.3 per cent of the total tax revenue in 1971-72 will have fallen to 0.1 per cent in the current financial year.

The Inland Revenue collected just over 64 per cent of the nation's tax bill, the remaining funds coming from customs and excise and motor vehicle taxes.

During the year covered by the report the board wrote off as irrecoverable taxes of just over £26m. The main reasons were that the taxpayer was abroad, untraceable or insolvent or because the amount owed was too small to justify the cost of recovery.

## Compulsory health insurance proposed

By a Staff Reporter

The National Health Service should be replaced with a new system based on compulsory health insurance and an independent national health insurance corporation, the Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association recommends.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service the association says a fundamental change in the philosophy behind health care is needed, and that minor adjustments to the present system would be ineffective.

The health service has been a great social experiment, but now faces a crisis because the premise on which it was founded has proved false, the association says. The universal availability of free health care has not led to a healthier nation and consequently to a reduction in demand for services.

Furthermore, a falling birth rate has resulted in an aging population. The association says: "The paramount need is to improve the delivery of health care to patients." Its proposals would maintain the concepts of protection from fear of financial hardship arising from illness; universal access to treatment; and treat-

ment free at the time of delivery. Compulsory health insurance would encourage individuals to take an interest in and bear some responsibility for the cost of their treatment and that of people less fortunate than themselves, it is argued.

The proposals have been designed for the majority, with special arrangements for the chronic sick, the elderly, and the mentally sick or subnormal needing long-stay or custodial care.

Hospitals should be managed, the association suggests, by members of the communities served through local, autonomous, boards.

The association says: "Our proposals envisage a totally new system of control with minimal involvement by central government, thus reducing the influence of party politics and eliminating the bureaucracy currently bedeviling the NHS."

It suggests that the compulsory insurance premiums should be assessed according to an individual's means. The cost of caring for the chronic sick and the underprivileged should be paid by those who could afford it.

## New version of TUC charter for women

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A new 24-point charter for woman workers was published yesterday by the TUC to bring previous demands up to date in the light of the new equal pay and sex discrimination laws. It says that too many employers are still looking for ways of avoiding giving women equal pay, and that there are too few places where working mothers can safely leave young children.

"Laws on their own are not enough," the charter says. "Laws have to be made to work everywhere and that is why the trade union movement still sets out its aims for women in a special charter."

New aims added since the last charter was published in 1975 cover occupational pensions, family planning and abortion. The TUC wants new schemes to offer men and women the same cover in return for equal contributions.

The charter supports the extension of free contraceptive advice and abortion facilities through the health service, and says the decision whether to use them is a matter for the individual. The TUC would oppose any restriction on access by women to family planning or abortion services. The charter also calls for better maternity provisions than are available under the Employment Protection Act, and more help for women returning to work after having children.

It calls on local employment offices and job centres to set up advice centres for such women, refresher courses for women returning to the same kind of jobs, and training for those wanting to learn new skills.

The charter says local authorities should be obliged to provide nurseries open throughout the day and round the year, nursery education for pre-school children, and activities after school and during holidays.

The charter argues that women should not be allowed to do jobs that might endanger their health or that of unborn children. Other aims include equality in education, job opportunities, training and promotion and payment of sickness benefit, and an end to discrimination on the ground of marital status.

More Home News, pages 9, 16

# WHY PEOPLE WHO OWN A BMW ENJOY DRIVING MORE THAN YOU DO.



As drivers, as BMW owners, are they all seem to share an unashamed enthusiasm for their cars. It's an enthusiasm that grows the longer they own one.

Why? It's essentially because BMW combine comfort, practicality and performance to a degree that can't be found elsewhere.

The BMW 528, for instance, is a four-door, five seat luxury saloon designed by

racing engineers. It's powered by a six cylinder engine that gives 170 bhp. The power steering is speed related - it gives maximum effect for parking but reduces at speed to give real road feel. And the suspension gives road holding and a smoothness of ride which, simply, cannot be equalled.

The result is a balance of performance and comfort which makes the 528 an unrivalled pleasure to drive or be driven in.

So the next time you see someone passing you in a BMW you might reflect that they're enjoying themselves more than you. Unless, of course, you've bought yourself a BMW by then.

**SPECIFICATION RESUME BMW 528 (MANUAL)**  
Engine: Six cylinder, OHC, 2788cc producing 170 bhp at 5800rpm.  
Performance: 0-60 in 9.2 secs.  
Maximum speed 123 mph. Fuel consumption:

26 mpg (29 mpg at constant 62 mph).  
PRICES: 518 £4,979; 520 £5,729; 520i £6,099; 525 £6,099; 528 £7,449 (shown).  
Prices correct at time of going to press.

In today's financial conditions, leasing a BMW can create substantial advantages. Your BMW dealer will be happy to put you in touch with expert advisors on leasing who can describe the schemes in detail.





## WEST EUROPE

## Commission puts curb on further exports of subsidized butter to Soviet Union or Eastern block

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 2

No more exports of butter to the Soviet Union or other East European countries will be subsidized out of EEC funds "for the foreseeable future", the European Commission announced today.

The decision was taken at the weekly meeting of the Commission under Mr. Roy Jenkins, its President, and was explained, at a press conference tonight by Mr. Finn Olaf Gundelach, the Commissioner responsible for agriculture.

He said that it was proper to strike a balance between the external and internal disposal of butter surpluses; it might be more economic to sell at a subsidized price abroad but it brought no direct benefit to the EEC consumer.

The Community's dairy management committee, which is made up of both Commission and national government officials, tonight approved the Commission's decision by a substantial majority. Under EEC rules, the committee's opinion has to be sought.

Amid a public outcry over reports of heavy sales of butter to the Soviet Union at a third of the price paid by EEC consumers, the Commission last Friday temporarily suspended the authorization of export subsidies. This action

came too late, however, to prevent the approval of subsidies for 36,000 tonnes.

Under the EEC system, a trader is guaranteed the level of the export subsidy he will receive for at least five months ahead, which takes account of the time it may take to ship the butter to its port of destination. Subsidies drawn before last Friday's suspension can thus go on being drawn.

After today's decision, the subsidy will once again be available at its pre-Friday level of £910 a tonne, but the Commission has decided that "to monitor the quantities and destinations of exports of butter, export licences will be granted only after a delay of three days after submission of applications".

Mr. Gundelach explained that the purpose of the delay was to give time to decide whether proposed sale was justified in terms of the market position in the EEC and the needs of the intended recipient. As far as the Soviet Union and other East European countries were concerned, it had been decided that no more sales were justified for the time being.

The Commission also intended "to review the possible methods of disposal of butter, including the relative costs and the balance between efforts on the internal and external mar-

kets". In the light of this review, and the decisions taken later this month by the Council of Ministers on 1977-78 price policy, further proposals might be submitted.

Sources close to Mr. Jenkins said that the Commission's decision to ban the export of surplus butter to East Europe had been taken because such sales were "politically indefensible". No one in Brussels, however, disputes that such sales are the cheapest way of disposing of the EEC's large surplus, at present 190,000 tonnes in Community intervention stocks and another 40,000 tonnes in private storage.

According to the Commission's calculations, for example, it would cost the EEC about £470m in internal subsidies to increase butter consumption in the Community by 150,000 tonnes. The cost of subsidizing the export of the same amount to the Soviet Union at the current rate would amount to about £140m.

In the most controversial decision so far of his presidency, Mr. Jenkins and his colleagues have judged that the political unacceptability of the subsidized sales overrides their economic value. They evidently hope that there will now be greater pressure on the Council of Agricultural Ministers to take action to curb excess milk production in the Community.

## Mayoral poll turns into political test in France

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, March 2

The mayoral and municipal council elections on March 13 and 20 in 36,394 towns and villages throughout France have rarely been so political in character or been preceded by such a fierce campaign.

There are several reasons for this. These are the first to be held since the establishment of the Union of the Left, grouping together Socialists, left-wing Radicals and Communists. And for the first time in 100 years, Paris is to have an elected mayor of its own.

These elections are much more of a national political test than previous ones, because they are taking place within a year of parliamentary elections in which, for the first time in more than 40 years, the left has a real chance of coming to power.

Municipal elections in France have always had a strong political significance because of the intimate connexion between local and national politics. Local politics is the natural springboard to national politics. The post of mayor in a large town is an invaluable—and extremely stable—political base for a parliamentary mandate.

M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister, for instance, who has been Mayor of Bordeaux for 30 years, is also president of the Regional Assembly of Aquitaine and an MP.

Things are different this time. To be a candidate on a list headed by a Socialist or a left-wing Radical, it is necessary to take a clear-cut stand on a problem of national politics. One must declare war on the government of the right, as M. Olivier Guichard, the Minister of the Interior, wrote last week and subscribe to the common programme of the left.

This "exclusiveness" of the Union of the Left means in the union's own words that "there are no longer local interests at stake, there are only national ones".

The clamour and fury of "politicians' politics", as they are derogatorily called in this country, are about to invade hundreds of lesser municipalities. The most important national issue was not appearing in the common programme, M. Guichard wrote. "It is the nationalization of local government".

In Paris first of all, but elsewhere, too, the creation of joint lists with the Communists has provoked a series of local elections and a good deal of heated argument. Socialist politicians, especially those of the older generation,

in the mining town of Lens, the local branch of the Socialist Party has defied headquarters and refused to share the common lists with the Communists. In Marseille, M. Gaston Defferre will not go into battle with them, though he has promised to share the administration of the city.



Double billing for M. Chirac in the Paris poster war.

Altogether, joint lists have been set up after protracted negotiation and pressure in 185 out of 221 towns of more than 30,000 inhabitants. Similar agreements have been reached in 400 out of the 587 towns of between 9,000 and 30,000 inhabitants.

The creation of the Union of the Left in 1972 has had the effect of injecting into local politics the divisions which dominate the national scene. In the last municipal elections of 1971, some 45 per cent of the nearly half a million councilors in smaller towns and villages were elected on non-political lists "for the defence of local interests".

A long-standing tradition rejected the contest in many cases to a straight battle between the outgoing mayor and his team, and a younger challenger, both of whose lists might be a mixture of persons drawn from the left, the right and the centre. Local considerations prevailed over party loyalty.

The voting system itself encourages this apolitical approach to local government. In towns under 30,000 inhabitants, the voters can choose candidates from the different lists and make up their own selection. In towns of more than 30,000 people, where politics are more anonymous, they can only vote for a single list

so that their administration is not paralyzed by partisan conflicts. The Communists have every reason to be satisfied with these results. They are expected to treble the number of their councilors throughout the country, and for the first time enter the councils of some 15 towns with a population of more than 30,000, among them Toulouse, and, of course, the capital itself.

This Communist advance in local government will, in the eyes of many observers, bring home in concrete terms to ordinary Frenchmen, who have hitherto looked upon it as a national by-play, the realities of the Socialist's alliance with the Communists. And when the Communists get a foothold in a municipality, as the experience of the Red Belt of Paris shows, they pervade the whole administration.

The bitter irony of the situation is that whatever the outcome in Paris, it will be bad for the Government. Bad, of course, if the left wins, but equally bad, if M. Chirac wins, for his victory will mean defeat for the President's man, M. D'Ornano.

That is why the municipal elections are often described as the first round of early parliamentary elections, of which there is increasing talk.

## Pressure on news agency condemned

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, March 2

The French National Union of Journalists today condemned what it described as repeated pressures being brought to bear by the Government on Agence France-Presse. In less than a fortnight, it claimed, the management of the news agency had yielded on three occasions to such pressure.

A different journalist had been appointed to report the campaign of M. Michel d'Ornano, Industry Minister, in the Paris elections after the minister complained about the agency's coverage. The agency had also withdrawn a dispatch on the election campaign after the presidential spokesman had complained about its contents.

Finally, the journalists said, the management had decided not to report a press conference held by the printers' union which is in dispute with the owners of *Le Parisien Libéré*. Last night, journalists at Agence France-Presse stopped work for an hour to protest against alleged external interference in their work.

The management says it did not cover some of the charges levelled by the printers' union against the chief proprietor of *Le Parisien Libéré* because they were libellous. It is said no pressure was brought to bear to change the reporter attached to M. d'Ornano, but that there was a "temperamental incompatibility" between the minister and the reporter.

## Finland hit by strike wave as pay talks fail

Helsinki, March 2

Some 20,000 chemical workers went on strike today in what threatens to be the start of a wave of stoppages in Finland after failure to reach a national wages and prices settlement. The Metal Workers' Union has called its members out from Monday to Wednesday. A strike by electricity workers is due on Thursday, and a walk-out by the ice-breaker fleet threatens for later this month. Other minor strikes have also been arranged.

The annual agreement expired at the beginning of last month when the trade union federation rejected a proposal by employers for no pay increases. Reuter.

## OVERSEAS

## Mr Carter suggests worldwide swapping of homes for holidays

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

President Carter has urged the states' governors to help to promote a world-wide people's exchange. The way Mr. Carter wants it to work is to keep the government firmly out of arrangements—but to have citizens encouraged to "double up" on charter flights and swap each other's homes for the duration of their holidays.

Entertaining the governors and their wives last night at a White House banquet, Mr. Carter spoke with enthusiasm of the "Friendship Force", the Georgia organization he and his wife had supported while he was governor, which aimed to promote world peace.

He envisaged a gradual start, building up to a "massive thing". The White House later suggested that most of the states might have half a dozen flights a year, building up to one flight a state monthly—600 a year.

Mr. Carter apparently startled his audience with the proposal. He recalled how he and his wife

had joined Georgians in chartering, for \$200 (£117) a head, a flight to Recife, in Brazil. The "exchange" Brazilians used the airliner for their flight to Georgia. All were lodged in private homes, and used the same swap arrangement with the airliner for the return journey.

Mr. Carter suggested that all those interested should "contact Rosalynn" (his wife) who is apparently to head the co-ordination of the programme. Mr. Carter has never made a secret of the immense importance he attaches to people-to-people contacts. He even intends, as it still on the campaign trail, staying in the homes of private citizens rather than at hotels on his planned trips round the country.

There were the usual toasts and entertainment at the White House banquet. But, instead of watching the Ford dance on the small hours, everyone got the message last night when the Carters suddenly said: "night everybody", and went upstairs. By 11 pm the band had packed up and gone home.

## Boeing's 'agents' stay secret

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

The Boeing company has won its court appeal here against making public the names of a prince and another 17 senior foreign officials to whom it paid at least \$77m to assist its aircraft sales.

Boeing, which has never conceded any wrongdoing in its payments, successfully argued that disclosure would immediately lead to such an association in the public's mind. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission, which is investigating the American company's unreported overseas payments, had first sought a subpoena for disclosure, then abandoned the action.

However, several names were made public in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, which suggests that a new wave of payments is emerging in the government investigation. This is that the payments were not always for commercial purposes, but were, partly, Central Intelligence Agency rewards for favoured politicians overseas.

The paper names one Boeing agent in Saudi Arabia as a relative of the country's royal family. It reports that in Iran, Boeing retained as an agent a relative of the imperial family.

In London, the *Wall Street Journal* says the company "paid large commissions to another Middle East power broker considered friendly".

Boeing officials insist that "in our overseas commercial sales activities we operate entirely as a private entity and not as an arm of American policy or diplomacy".

However, other links between large American companies and the CIA are on record. There is the ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation) involvement with the CIA in an attempt to prevent President Salvador Allende coming to power in Chile. There have also been revelations of frequent close connections between the Summa Corporation, owned by the late Howard Hughes, and the CIA.

## Dr Coggan continues

Solomons tour

Honiara, Solomon Islands, March 2—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, and his wife sailed today for the island of Santa Isabel, third call on his week's tour of the Solomons.

## Murder inquiry chairman

quits in Congress clash

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

Mr. Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House of Representatives committee on the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, has resigned.

In a letter to the Speaker, Mr. Tip O'Neill, he again denounced Mr. Richard Sprague, the committee counsel, whom he tried to dismiss last month. The rest of the committee then refused to support him.

Mr. Gonzalez has been at home in Texas, with influenza for the past two weeks. His committee staff has not been paid for two months because he refused to sign pay vouchers and because the House comptrollers

## Equal rights amendment is rejected

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 2

The Equal Rights Amendment has suffered another defeat this time in North Carolina. This is a measure which states that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex, and passing it through the 38 states legislatures needed to ratify it is one of the main objectives of the women's movement.

The five states have ratified it since the amendment passed Congress in 1971. If the other three cannot be found by March, 1979, the amendment will be lost.

Every year, when the various states' legislatures open the amendment is put up in those states which have refused to pass it so far. In the past three years its supporters have made very little progress, and their failure in North Carolina is a bad augury for the future. President and Mrs. Carter lobbied vigorously for the measure, as Mr. and Mrs. Ford did last year.

The amendment is opposed by conservatives of both sexes. The battle will be resumed now in a number of other states.

## Clive Barnes resigns as drama critic

New York, March 2

Clive Barnes, the British-born critic who reviewed plays and drama for *The New York Times*, is giving up the drama post, the newspaper said today.

Mr. Barnes, 50, formerly ballet critic of *The Times* and *The Daily Express*, joined *The New York Times* in 1955 as ballet critic. He has also reviewed opening nights on Broadway since 1967.

The newspaper said the change will take place next autumn at the beginning of the theatre season. No successor has been named.—Reuter.

## Correction

A photograph from Wellington, New Zealand, published in *The Times* yesterday showed the Queen dubbing Mr. David Norman Perry, of Opatika, New Zealand. An agency caption wrongly identified him as Dr. Charles Alexander Fleming.

## Man responsible for controversial deal hates the EEC 'Red millionaire' cashes in again

From Paul Martin

Paris, March 2

M. Jean Baptiste Doumenge, the man responsible for the sale of the EEC's surplus butter stocks to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, is a self-confessed hater of the Community. Indeed, the ebullient French "red millionaire" is once said to have remarked that the EEC should be "liquidated".

Born an impoverished shepherd boy and now at 57 a committed Communist whose success as a capitalist has earned him the reputation in France as the "super businessman", M. Doumenge is fond of such ex-pressiveness. But rather than being part of a sinister plot against Western Europe, his butter deal is just one of a long list of profitable transactions through which he has cashed in on his capitalist and communist natures.

During one visit to Moscow, he met Nikita Khrushchev and they became friends. Finding

common cause in their peasant origin, they struck up a relationship which was to serve their mutual benefit and that link with the Russian leadership continues to contribute to the Doumenge fortune. Today his company, Interagra, which handles the East-West deals, is a vast concern.

Broad-shouldered with paunch and jowl, M. Doumenge does funnel some of the profits he makes from his operations into the French Communist Party, but he likes the good life and has no ideological qualms about living it. A fine stable is the result of his passion for horses and he runs his own football team, appropriately named Red Star.

His dealings with the Eastern block began in a big way when he acted as the go-between for the sale of grain. This was followed by Soviet tractors for Algeria and then Algerian wine for the East. Then there were the celebrated deals in 1973 for

200,000 tonnes of surplus European butter and 250 million litres of wine for the Soviet Union.

Since then the trade has been steady although M. Doumenge has kept out of the headlines until the present EEC butter deal. Characteristically he has remained silent, and indeed Interagra has seldom emerged as the villain of the piece.

M. Doumenge has come a long way from his humble beginnings, and as many French critics point out, probably got more out of communism than he put into it. Nevertheless, friends maintain that his personal commitment is sincere and that the misery of peasant life framed his thinking.

But what constantly emerges is the image of the capitalist, despite his reported remark when appointed by the then Communist minister as the Administrator for Savings: "I have never seen a cheque in my life".

## Communists draw up joint aims

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 2

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian communist leader, and M. Georges Marchais, his French counterpart, arrived in Madrid today for the Euro-Communist summit meeting. They were driven to their hotel in a five-ton bulletproof car, a present from the President of Romania to Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish communist leader.

Señor Carrillo made two trips in it to the airport as his French and Italian colleagues arrived separately. Mr. Marchais said that he had brought with him a preliminary declaration with which to start the talks. He was ready to sign a joint communiqué on freedom. Its contents aroused curiosity in view of the moves against dissidents in Eastern Europe.

After lunch the three leaders began talks on the communiqué which is not expected to contain a new definition of Euro-Communism but rather a setting out of the three parties' common aims in establishing socialism in a pluralist society.

Señor Carrillo denied that there were any important differences between the three parties. They all shared what he called "a common idea and the will to cooperate".

There were minimal security measures at the hotel. Outside the hotel, however, the Spanish Communist Party has taken over most of the third floor, there were several car loads of riot police.

The meeting is protected by the Government but a cocktail party planned for tonight was banned. It has been replaced by a dinner for leading members of the opposition.

## Spain 'to free all political prisoners soon'

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 2

All political prisoners, including those involved in crimes of violence, will be freed from Spanish jails within two weeks, according to Señor Martín Fernández Palacios, who represents the Basque province of Vizcaya in the Cortes (Parliament).

He said last night that of the estimated 200 prisoners, most of them sentenced for belonging to the Basque separatist organization ETA, 15 "directly involved in crimes of blood" would be expelled from Spain.

Señor Fernández Palacios said he was asked by the Interior Minister, Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, to take the pulse of the Basque country over certain issues, including the amnesty problem and the possibility of a trip to the area by King Juan Carlos. The king

has visited most areas of Spain, but not the Basque country.

Señor Fernández Palacios apparently spoke with the knowledge of the minister, although the exactness of his words has caused some surprise in government circles. A senior official close to the Interior Minister said the amnesty granted by the king last July would be widened, but whether a pardon would be given to everyone had not yet been decided.

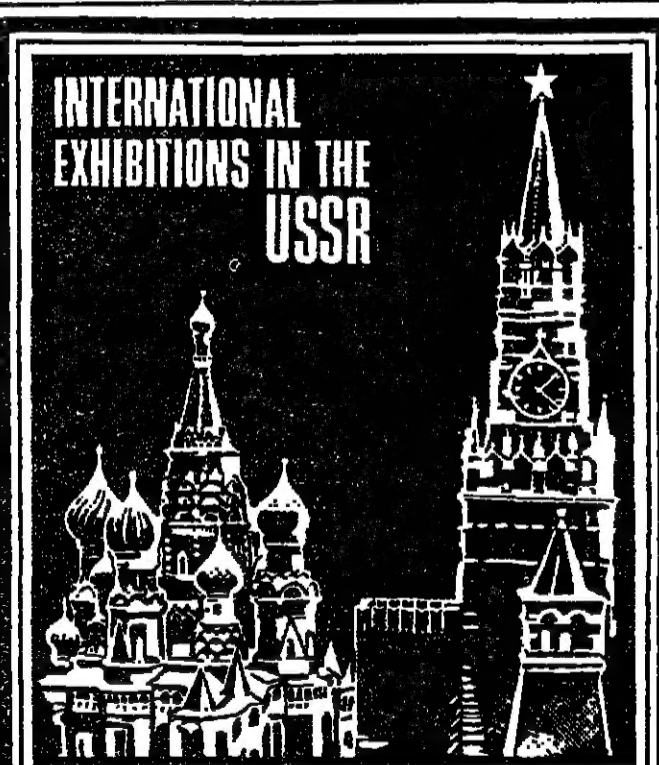
The official said the decision would be announced within a "short time". There have been reports that the government will release most prisoners by Easter Sunday (April 10), which is the Basque national day.

The campaign for a total amnesty has started again after a lull. Basques at first headed to the Government's ban on demonstrations, but now they are protesting again, although

more peacefully. More than 10,000 staged sit-ins at town halls and parish churches last weekend.

The clamour for an amnesty has reached such proportions that even Señor José María Belloch, the new government-appointed civil governor of Guipuzcoa, has committed himself to the cause. He told representatives of Basque pro-amnesty committees earlier this week that he was prepared to resign if there was not a wider amnesty.

The proposal to expel some prisoners, who may very well turn out to be the same 15 as those recently put on a bargaining list by the urban guerrilla group Grapo, will present problems. It is illegal to exile anyone without his permission. And such a measure is bound to enrage the country's ultra-conservatives.



1977  
Reference standards, model measuring equipment and precision instruments—Moscow, July 22-August 1  
Equipment for diagnostics and treatment of cardiac and nervous diseases. Moscow, March 29-April 5  
Equipment and technological processes in communication means manufacturing. Moscow, April 5-15  
Equipment for the production of small prefabricated houses; Building materials, and components. Tallin, May 17-30  
Special methods of compacting and equipment for investigation of P/M. Moscow, May 24-June 6  
The 2nd International Exhibition "Electrotechnical Equipment and Power Transmission Lines". Moscow, June 9-23  
Building materials and equipment for their production—Stroimaterialy-77. Kiev, June 21-July 4  
The 2nd International Exhibition "Railway Transport". Moscow, July 13-27  
Equipment and apparatus for drug production and testing. Moscow, July 20-31  
Materials and testing equipment used in foundry. Moscow, July 22-August 1  
The 4th International Exhibition "Chemistry". Moscow, September 1-15  
Equipment for clinical treatment and research of ischemia heart disease. Tbilisi, October 6-17  
Optics in science, industry, culture and everyday life—"Optika-77". Moscow, October 13-23  
1978  
The 2nd International Exhibition "Equipment and Technique for food industry, trade and public catering establishments". Moscow, July 4-17  
The 2nd International Exhibition "Organization of technical service and repair of cars and equipment for this purpose". Moscow, May  
The 3rd International Exhibition "Agricultural machinery, equipment and instruments". Moscow, September-October  
Please apply for information to:  
"Exposcentre" of the USSR  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 1-a Sokolnichesky Val,  
Moscow, 107113, USSR.  
Telex: 7185 UIV TTP SU.  
Telephone: 269-70-93.

مكتبة الأصيل



OVERSEAS

# Johannesburg's white voters give their verdict on apartheid

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, March 2

White voters went to the polls in Johannesburg today in the most important municipal elections in the city's history. The results will indicate whether the post-Soweto mood of the 220,000 registered voters is in favour of greater racial integration or continued separation.

The elections were a three-way contest between the National Party (NP), which rules the country, the United Party (UP), which has traditionally run the city, and the liberal Progressive Reform Party (PRP), which increasingly looks like taking over from the UP as the nation's main opposition party. The real battle of the election campaign was between the UP and the PRP.

Canvassers indicated that the PRP, campaigning on an integrationist ticket, could well take control of the city's economic heart. Mr. Alf Widman, the party's leader in Johannesburg, predicted that the PRP would gain an absolute majority in the city council. Previously the UP held 17 of the 27 seats, the PRP 16 and the NP 10. One was held by an independent and three were vacant.

A PRP victory would be a clear indication that an important part of the country's white electorate believes that the Government should rethink its segregationist policies in the light of last year's township unrest. However, it would not mean there was a nationwide swing to the PRP.

The PRP has always drawn its main strength from middle-class English-speaking voters living in Johannesburg's affluent northern suburbs, and to a lesser extent from similarly inclined people in Cape Town and Durban.

# New invasion on the way, says Uganda leader

Nairobi, March 2.—President Amin of Uganda, said today he had received a letter from Kenya saying 2,600 American, British and Israeli mercenaries were crossing that country to invade Uganda.

At prayers in a Kampala mosque for Muhammad's birthday, the president called on all Ugandans who knew anything about a possible invasion to tell him at once.

The alleged invasion—the second in a week—coincides with expressions of concern in Washington over 240 American citizens, mostly missionaries and their families, who live in Uganda.

President Amin summoned them all to see him after President Carter's statement last week that recent events in Uganda disgusted the civilized world. After more protests from Washington, the meeting was postponed indefinitely.

President Amin said the Kenyans who wrote the letter to him reported mercenaries in plain clothes aboard an American destroyer in the Kenyan port of Mombasa and a US Air Force squadron stationed at Nanyuki, Central Kenya.

An American embassy spokesman in Nairobi said there were no American warships in Mombasa and no American aircraft at Nanyuki. Radio Uganda said the letter described Nairobi and Mombasa as "bases of imperialism," but the writers appealed to the Ugandan Defence Council not to take "serious action" as this would endanger innocent Kenyans.

President Amin thanked the writers for their "spirit of African brotherhood" and suggested the foreign mercenaries might be in Kenya to solve Kenya's internal problems. He did not elaborate.—Reuters

# Muldoon long-term plans for a trade agreement with the European Community

# Tough politician who has lambs on his mind

From Roger Berthoud  
Wellington, March 2

New Zealanders are not generally considered to be very emotional people. But about Mr. Robert Muldoon, their Prime Minister, they have extremely strong feelings. Few New Zealanders feel indifferent to Mr. Muldoon. They either love him or loathe him.

Those who dislike him accuse him of having appealed to the baser emotions of the electorate over such issues as Polynesian immigration during the campaign which swept him and his National Party to power in the general election of November, 1975. They accuse him of being arrogant and aggressive and of lowering the tone of public debate—as when last year he accused a fellow MP of being picked up by police for homosexual activities.

His supporters admire his decisiveness, his outspokenness, his grip on economic problems, and of course the popular appeal which made him a winner. Not even his detractors deny his intelligence, though some regard it as mere shrewdness.

Some say that this powerfully built former cost accountant, who is 55, has raised the level of political consciousness of New Zealanders. Others say he has produced an undesirable polarization of views. He himself has few doubts about the value of his approach. "You have to be fairly positive to get the ordinary citizen to think about issues," he said in an interview in his office in Wellington.

"We have had politicians who qualify things so much that no one can understand what they are trying to say. It is very easy to do this, out of fear of antagonizing anyone. I take the opposite view."

Among those Mr. Muldoon has not feared to antagonize are black African leaders who dislike New Zealand's sporting contacts with South Africa. "My concept of the Commonwealth is not a commonwealth in which one member is black-mailed by others into changing its internal policies," he said.

"We are certainly not going to change them, certainly not in a situation like this where there is such a high degree of hypocrisy." Other members had sporting contacts with South Africa: South Africans were going to compete in the impending women's tennis and bowling tournaments in Britain. West African boxers fought in South Africa. Even at the time of the African boycott of the Montreal Olympic Games, a South African cricket team was playing on the lawn of Government House in Ottawa.

They said this was not an official representative team, or some waseel words like that. Our policy is very simple: we are not going to interfere with the rights of our sporting associations to play with whomsoever they wish.

The most important thing was to retain access for butter, to clarify the position on cheese exports, and to underline the "absolute necessity" of retaining the British market for lamb.

"We reckon to kill something in the order of 22 million lambs a season, of which some 18-20 million go to the United Kingdom. Any diminution of that access would be disastrous to the New Zealand sheep industry."

"There is talk of an EEC sheep meat policy, and it is being pushed quite hard by the Irish, who doubtless see a role in supplying greater quantities of sheep meat. But I think it is quite inconceivable they could supply the quantities we are supplying."

In the longer term, his Government would envisage moving towards some kind of trade agreement with the EEC, a concept which some visiting ministers from member states had supported.

Slightly surprisingly, Mr. Muldoon did not see increased industrialization as the chief growth area for the economy, plumping instead for fishing, forestry and, tourism, which last year attracted 385,000 visitors (60 per cent Australian, 13 per cent American).

He thought there would continue to be very tight controls on immigration for perhaps three years: the present target is at 5,000 per year. There was a net outflow, partly caused by the departure of illegal Polynesian immigrants.



Mr. Robert Muldoon: Either loved or loathed.

The Canadians, he added, had made it perfectly clear they would not cancel the Commonwealth Games due in Edmonton in August, 1978. But there might not be any black African contestants.

Mr. Muldoon would doubtless be somewhat more the diplomat when he comes to Brussels, Bonn and London later this month. His main aim will be to impress on the new European Commission that New Zealand "desperately needs to retain a market in the United Kingdom particularly, and in continental Europe to the greatest degree possible."

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Then perhaps the door might be opened a little wider.

His decision, after a visit by leaders of the Peace Movement, to let in a few refugees from Northern Ireland has proved controversial. "I was touched by the plight of young people who find themselves caught up in these illegal organizations, want to get out, but cannot because of threats of physical violence," he said.

"And I was greatly impressed by Mairead Corrigan and the Peace Movement. Some of New Zealand's own social problems have come from the concentration of population, including immigrant Polynesians fresh from a subsistence economy, in Auckland, a striking feature in a country relatively so empty."

Mr. Muldoon agreed that in many ways New Zealand still has many of its options open. There were some serious drawbacks: geographical isolation increased the cost of imports, important raw materials were lacking, and the home market was small, to the detriment of industry. And wealth was unevenly distributed. But the people were adaptable and relatively well educated.

He could have added that the country is extremely beautiful, and although inflation last year totalled 15 per cent, unemployment is at only 1 per cent. For those outside, it remains in ways a very attractive country indeed—and that is surely a source of strength.

# Joint aims for Afro-Arab summit

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, March 2

Foreign ministers of about 60 Arab and African countries met in Cairo tomorrow to draft the agenda and make other preparations for the first Afro-Arab summit conference due to begin here on Monday.

Afro-Arab economic cooperation is expected to be a key subject of both meetings. African states, most of which had severed ties with Israel several years ago in support of the Arab cause, are likely to seek increased economic assistance from wealthy Arab countries, particularly the oil producers. Many of the African countries are hard hit by inflation and the recent increases of oil prices.

In a move to cement relations with African countries, the Arabs have established a special \$400m (£235m) fund to help development projects in Africa.

The ministerial meeting, expected to last three days, will prepare political and economic declarations for the summit meeting.

The political declaration is expected to express support for the Arab cause, the struggle for black rule in Rhodesia, and African liberation movements, as well as denounce apartheid in South Africa. It will also stipulate that Arab and African national issues are considered joint causes for which both sides will struggle.

The economic declaration is to lay down the principles of consolidating Afro-Arab economic cooperation by creating various bodies to work out plans for development programmes. Liberation movements from Rhodesia, Namibia (South-West Africa), South Africa and Djibouti will attend.

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The foreign ministers and heads of state will be faced with thorny inter-Arab and inter-African disputes including that between Morocco and Mauritania on one hand and Algeria on the other over the Western Sahara.

There are also strained relations between Sudan and Ethiopia over Eritrea, whose struggle for independence is supported by Sudan, as well as those between Uganda and Tanzania.

On the Arab side there are serious differences between Libya and Sudan, Egypt and Libya and Syria and Iraq.

The Afro-Arab summit will be the biggest gathering of heads of state in Egypt since the second non-aligned summit meeting in Cairo in 1964. There are proposals to convene the Afro-Arab conference every three years.

# Villagers ask Israel for aid against Palestinians

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, March 2

Christian Lebanese villagers arrived at the border fence near Metulla today and asked for "aid" from Israel. They brought with them two casualties from a shelling duel between Phalangists and Palestinians—a dead woman and an injured man.

The Lebanese proposal for a United Nations force to keep the peace in the sensitive southern border area has been greeted without enthusiasm in Jerusalem, though Government spokesmen are unwilling to comment officially until more details are known of the plan.

Privately, political observers are disappointed that Lebanon appears unwilling to accept responsibility for policing the border. They fear a United Nations border force would be of little use unless it was of considerable strength. It would also presumably stop the work of the clinics which have been serving Christian villagers from Lebanon and would end other exchanges through the fences.

Military observers fear a United Nations force would be too weak to prevent guerrilla raids by Palestinians into Israel, but might hamper Israeli attempts to mount reprisals.

Mr. Rabin, the Prime Minister, is expected to make this point in Washington next week. He is likely to tell the United States Government that Israel is reluctant to agree to a United Nations force unless the threat of border attacks is taken into account. Israel would consider an interim agreement with Lebanon if these difficulties were surmounted.

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# Coexistence between rival Muslim sects at stake as rumours spread of revenge killings

# Syria on edge over college murder

From Robert Fisk  
Damascus, March 2

The Syrian police are still looking for a young man who walked up to Dr. Muhammad Fadel, president of Damascus University, last week and shot him at least 12 times in the head and body with a machine pistol, a few yards from the college gates.

The murder was a cold-blooded business. Eye witnesses say that, when the assassin ran out of bullets, he coolly loaded another clip into his gun and carried on firing.

After the killing he ran to a motor cycle at the roadside with another young man in the saddle, who drove him away.

Mr. Fadel was a leading jurist and one of the men who helped to lay down the constitution for the "Federation of Arab Republics" before the abortive Egyptian-Syrian unity attempts in 1958. Perhaps more important to the Syrians was the motive behind the killing. When the Syrian press did not publicize that Mr. Fadel was a prominent Muslim Alawite and a close adviser of President Assad.

prizes only about 10 per cent of Syria's population. During the French mandate, they were largely excluded from government office but many found the Army still open to them.

Once armed forces began to take the place of Syria, therefore, the Alawites came to prominence at the expense of the Sunni Muslims who make up about 80 per cent of the population.

President Assad is himself an Alawite but has striven over the past seven years, with remarkable success, to create a unified state, unaffected by religious divisions.

This was one of the reasons why the civil war in the Lebanon—where confessionalism had failed to heal the enormous social differences—appeared as such a threat to Syrian stability and why President Assad chose to send in his army to end the conflict.

Thus the murder of Dr. Fadel was particularly worrying for the Government, and the rumours which followed his death made it even more so. On the day of his death reports began to circulate in Damascus that a leading member of the Syrian Beach Party in the city, a Muslim, had been murdered in revenge. Throughout

the next week, travellers from northern Syria brought even more frightening tales. A Sunni Muslim had been shot dead in Hama, according to one report, and several Alawites murdered in Aleppo.

The Government says the reports are lies, presumably concocted to encourage subversion. Yet the rumours represent a serious problem. In the past 18 months Syria has witnessed a return to the kind of violence and assassination that plagued its early years of independence.

One of the few vestiges of confessionalism left in Syria is the system of religious domestic courts. Sunni Muslims or Alawites anxious to arrange a divorce or deal with an inheritance case still go to their own tribunals. Dr. Fadel sat on one such court.

President Assad is now widely respected among Western diplomats and politicians as an Arab leader of growing international stature and there is no doubt that he is trying gently to lead his country towards a more positive and open society. The coming months will show whether his statesmanship can overcome the cancer which, in quite different form, broke up Syria's western neighbour with such horrifying consequences for 19 months.

# Chinese let Mao's widow read press attacks

Peking, March 2.—Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching, and the three other radical leaders arrested last October are not being held in complete isolation from the outside world, a Chinese source in Peking said today. They are encouraged to read official newspapers, they can listen to the radio, and they are allowed to watch television.

Observers noted that the articles in the press and the programmes on television are almost entirely devoted to virulent denunciations of the "gang of four."

Yesterday evening Chinese television showed for the first time a play which Chiang Ching is accused of having censored for over 10 years. In this way, the source said,

Chiang Ching and her associates could "follow the campaign against them, and see how they are criticized and what they are accused of."

Since their arrest on October 7, exactly a month after the death of Chairman Mao, the "gang of four" has been likened to Liu Shao-chi, the head of state purged during the Cultural Revolution, and Marshal Lin Biao, the Defence Minister who died in 1971 in mysterious circumstances.

It is still not known where Chiang Ching and her associates are being held. A Chinese source had earlier indicated that their mistakes and crimes were so huge that they were not even possible for them to make a self-criticism. Agence France-Press.

# Jailed poet wins South African literary award

Johannesburg, March 2.—Breyten Breytenbach, the jailed South African writer, has won a literary prize awarded by the pro-government press, for a book of poems written in prison.

Mr. Breytenbach was sentenced in 1975 to nine years' imprisonment for alleged subversion on behalf of the banned African National Congress.

The prize was awarded by the Perskor group which owns Die Transvaler and other Afrikaans newspapers. It is for a collection of poems entitled Voetskrif (Footnote). The prize money of 2,000 rand (£1,350) has been handed over to the poet's brother.—Agence France-Press.

# Defections seen as 'stab in back' by Mrs Gandhi

From Kuldip Nayer  
Delhi, March 2

Mrs Sumitra Kulkarni, Mahatma Gandhi's grand daughter, who is a member of India's Upper House today resigned from the ruling Congress Party and joined the opposition Congress for Democracy.

"I have come where I belong," she told reporters at a press conference on the laws of the home of Mr. Jagjivan Ram, the chairman of the party. Mr. Ram, the former Minister of Agriculture, left the Government and the Congress Party last month in protest against the continuance of the emergency.

She said she had felt so oppressed in the Congress Party about the ways things were done that she had no option but to resign. There was no democracy within the party.

In replying to Mrs Gandhi's complaints that she had been stabbed in the back, Mr. Ram wondered if there were any politicians worth the name in the country whom she had not tried to humiliate.

"Has she not betrayed the country on many occasions in regard to the economic programme that she announced?" he asked, adding that she could hardly expect honourable people to stay loyal to her for ever.

If people find her company embarrassing and not in the interests of the country, she should not think that she was being stabbed in the back, Mr. Ram added.

# London priest 'tricked into returning to Romania'

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Very Rev. Lucian Gafton, the well-known Romanian priest in London, has been enticed back to Bucharest on a false pretext and is not being allowed to rejoin his wife in Britain, according to sources in the Church of England.

Father Gafton is the official representative of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, a kind of ecclesiastical ambassador, and is also parish priest of the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St Dunstan's, Fleet Street.

He and his wife, Mrs Angela Gafton, have permanent residence status in Britain. They first came here more than 10 years ago, and their one child, a grown-up son, is also in the West.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Coggan, is understood to be personally concerned about Father Gafton's treatment, and it is believed the matter was raised when a leading Romanian churchman, Bishop Anthony, visited Lambeth Palace last year.

The British Foreign Office has been informed of Lambeth Palace's concerns, though neither the Government nor the Church of England wants to appear to be interfering in Romanian church affairs.

The main emphasis in representations to the Romanians so far has been on humane grounds: that Father Gafton has been forcibly separated from his family and friends in Britain—with the added point that he has come to be regarded in London as a first-class unofficial ambassador for his country.

regation about parish affairs, though one of his friends suggested that this could have been the work of agents provocateurs, to supply grounds for Father Gafton's recall to Romania.

Last year a message was given to Father Gafton that his father, the Bishop of Rimnicu Vilcea, was dying. Father Gafton promptly went to Romania, found his father was quite well, and was then told he would not be allowed to return to London. Apparently no reason was given.

Since then he has been teaching "social collaboration," said to be a euphemism for Marxism-Leninism, at the Bucharest theological institute. Although the appointment at the institute is technically a promotion, one friend remarked that for an apolitical priest like Father Gafton, the job would be more of a punishment. It is also believed that Father Gafton has been kept under some sort of surveillance in Bucharest, and his private life restricted.

One fear in London is that allegations of immorality might be manufactured against him, almost a standard procedure when communist governments want to discredit a prominent churchman.

No one in the Church of England appears to know why Father Gafton has earned his Government's displeasure, if indeed he has.

One innocent explanation of his treatment is that the Romanian church feels, as a matter of policy, that its representatives abroad ought not to put down roots too deeply in any one foreign country. That theory would be put to the test if Father Gafton was allowed to return to Britain to settle his affairs, and offered another post in the West.

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## PARLIAMENT, March 2, 1977

## Dr Owen critical of UN resolution on Uganda deaths

## House of Commons

The rejection by the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva yesterday of the British proposal for an independent inquiry into the deaths of the archbishop and two cabinet ministers in Uganda was disappointing, Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said. The resolution, which had been adopted by insufficiently firm, far-reaching or effective, he added.

His remarks came during exchanges in which Mr Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead, Lab) had asked: When Dr Owen next planned to meet the American Secretary of State.

Dr Owen—President Carter has invited the Prime Minister to visit Washington from March 10 to 12. I shall accompany him and I also look forward to holding discussions with Mr Vance in the course of the visit.

Mr Corbett—Will he consider discussing with Mr Vance what help Britain, as a second rate nuclear power, can give to the United States? President Carter's inauguration pledge to try to rid the planet of the scourge of nuclear weapons.

Will he discuss with him what specific joint Anglo-American initiative can be taken to make progress in the sale and use of nuclear energy to solve the economic problems of this country?

Dr Owen—The strategic arms limitation talks are between the United States and Russia but Britain has a vital interest in these talks. A successful conclusion to the agreement strongly in the interests of everyone in the world.

I regard the resolution as adopted as insufficiently firm, far-reaching or effective. It leaves us no alternative but to press for an investigation in the open debate due to take place shortly for a presidential election in Uganda.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab)—It is true that the Commission and French communist ministers are not in favour of EEC more unpopular, would that be a reason for more haste rather than less for proceeding towards direct elections? (Cries of "No.")

Dr Owen—I believe in democratic elections and I have, and have never believed it is in the traditions of the Labour movement to turn aside from any democratic process. What we wish to ensure is that the democratic process is reflected in the discussions on the Common Market in this House.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab)—It would be better to consider the question of the common agricultural policy (Labour cheers) before we vote further into this Brussels quagmire.

It is disappointing that, at the conclusion of the Commission, £30,000 of butter should be sold to the Soviet Union at one quarter of the price we have to pay, to make larger profits for French communist millionaires.

Dr Owen—I have a great deal of sympathy with what he says. This deal could be criticized on many different grounds. When there are grounds for criticism we will criticize.

Mr James Spiller (West Dorset, C)—There were initially some difficulties relating to the French Government and the House of Commons. Can he confirm what other states within the Community see to have problems in their approach towards direct elections other than the United Kingdom?

Dr Owen—The constitutional court leaves the way open for proposals to be put by the French Government to their Parliament, but they have not produced those proposals. No member state has yet passed the necessary legislation for direct elections. We need to keep that in mind.

The Government that has had the most difficulty hitherto appears to be the Danish Government, and they are relooking at their position.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stratford, C)—Will Dr Owen appreciate that the American Government is concerned with the Russian nuclear superpower? The particular concern is the encouragement of the American Government to certain British firms, principally Lucas Aerospace and Plessey, which are providing high technology for improving the Soviet missile which is the same engine which fires the Backfire.

This might give this bomber a two way capability of crossing the Atlantic from Soviet bases to America.

Dr Owen—The transfer of high technology is a matter of concern and usually discussed confidentially between us and the Americans. If they are concerned about it, it is not our business to raise it with me in Washington.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester, West, Lab)—Will Dr Owen express his appreciation to the Americans for their support of Britain's policy on the United Nations for our campaign on human rights, for an independent inquiry into the deaths of the archbishop and two cabinet ministers in Uganda?

Is it not disgraceful that this proposal was rejected? Which of our Commonwealth colleagues saw fit to vote against it or abstain?

Dr Owen—I welcome the position of the American Government on the whole problem of Uganda and I am disappointed our proposal was not unanimously supported in Geneva yesterday.

I regard the resolution as adopted as insufficiently firm, far-reaching or effective. It leaves us no alternative but to press for an investigation in the open debate due to take place shortly for a presidential election in Uganda.

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The Government that has had the most difficulty hitherto appears to be the Danish Government, and they are relooking at their position.

## Investigation of charges of sanctions breaking

The Government would look seriously at any new evidence brought forward of sanctions breaking by any British company, irrespective of ownership, Mr Edward Heath, Minister for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said.

Mr Ivor Clementson (Luton, East, Lab) had asked if the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was satisfied that no major British companies had been involved in the breaking of sanctions against Rhodesia.

Mr Rowlands (Mersey, Tydfil, Lab)—I am generally satisfied that the Government are doing their best to ensure that no British company is involved in the breaking of sanctions against Rhodesia.

Mr Clementson—Has he seen the documents "Oil Conspires" produced by an American church group and "Shell and BP in Southern Africa" produced by the Anti-Apartheid group? These contain allegations and evidence that British oil companies have been engaged in breaking sanctions.

Mr Rowlands—The report to which he refers was not published yesterday. We have not had a chance to look at the evidence quoted in it. It is not our business to raise it with me in Washington.

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## Workers can kill or save Leyland: no more state cash until complete end to stoppages

Since the review last summer there had been no evidence of reduced industrial disputes or improved productivity at British Leyland and the National Enterprise Board had concluded that in the prevailing circumstances it would be unable to make further funds available for the cars plan, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said during the emergency debate on British Leyland.

The Government, he added, accepted that position and the workers at Leyland should know that their jobs and the company were now in their hands.

Opening the debate, Mr Hilary Mitter (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C), said the situation at British Leyland was grave because it raised serious doubts about the effectiveness of the present system of industrial democracy. There was a sense of bitterness, isolation and loss of confidence among the toolmakers—a body of skilled people who had undertaken long apprenticeships and had a vital role to play not only in this company, but throughout the industry.

One of the main worries was that unless their problems were resolved, the country would be faced with a grave shortage of people offering themselves for these apprenticeships, and the company and the country would be deprived of much needed skills.

The toolmakers found themselves trapped by the provisions of the pay policy. The company faced the same problem because it was unable to offer a common starting date for the various rates of pay in the different plants.

The Leyland crisis was even without the current devastating series of disputes. It was already clear the present pay policy was not working.

The NEB reported to me the evening before last (he said) and the Government have considered their conclusions. For reasons I cannot go into now, the Government would not be right to make available the whole correspondence, but I can say that the outline of the main points.

British Leyland had reported to the NEB that since the major review of progress last summer the company had lost £10m. There was a reduction of industrial disputes or of improved productivity in Leyland cars and that the company was deteriorating sharply in recent months.

British Leyland also stated that unless there was a substantial improvement in performance the Government would have to consider an essential component of the Leyland strategy, was insufficient to support the cars plan.

Mr Varley said since last summer there had been an increasing number of industrial disputes at Leyland. In 1976 British Leyland lost about one-fifth of the planned production schedules and while the company was not the sole cause, they were by far the largest factor.

This year, after a brief improvement during January, the position deteriorated. It was fast becoming a downward spiral of lost production and lost wages.

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Dr Owen—I welcome the position of the American Government on the whole problem of Uganda and I am disappointed our proposal was not unanimously supported in Geneva yesterday.

I regard the resolution as adopted as insufficiently firm, far-reaching or effective. It leaves us no alternative but to press for an investigation in the open debate due to take place shortly for a presidential election in Uganda.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab)—It is true that the Commission and French communist ministers are not in favour of EEC more unpopular, would that be a reason for more haste rather than less for proceeding towards direct elections? (Cries of "No.")

Dr Owen—I believe in democratic elections and I have, and have never believed it is in the traditions of the Labour movement to turn aside from any democratic process. What we wish to ensure is that the democratic process is reflected in the discussions on the Common Market in this House.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab)—It would be better to consider the question of the common agricultural policy (Labour cheers) before we vote further into this Brussels quagmire.

It is disappointing that, at the conclusion of the Commission, £30,000 of butter should be sold to the Soviet Union at one quarter of the price we have to pay, to make larger profits for French communist millionaires.

Dr Owen—I have a great deal of sympathy with what he says. This deal could be criticized on many different grounds. When there are grounds for criticism we will criticize.

Mr James Spiller (West Dorset, C)—There were initially some difficulties relating to the French Government and the House of Commons. Can he confirm what other states within the Community see to have problems in their approach towards direct elections other than the United Kingdom?

Dr Owen—The constitutional court leaves the way open for proposals to be put by the French Government to their Parliament, but they have not produced those proposals. No member state has yet passed the necessary legislation for direct elections. We need to keep that in mind.

The Government that has had the most difficulty hitherto appears to be the Danish Government, and they are relooking at their position.

seven years as well as £1,000m that was needed from external sources. That ratio of 1.5 to 1 made all too clear the point the Government had repeatedly made—that public funds alone could not in any sense secure the future of British Leyland.

The future of British Leyland (he said) rests largely in the hands of the company's own management and its own employees. Some of them, not all of them, I do not think the majority of them, are jeopardizing its future by the action that is now being taken.

The procedures governing disputes had been recently revised with the full support of the AUEW and other trade unions involved. They ought to be observed.

There should be no circumstance in my opinion and that of the Government (he said) in which it is justified that such action should be taken without the procedures that have been agreed being fully explored. To do this puts at risk the livelihood of everyone who works at British Leyland.

Movements towards reform of the bargaining structure had not been possible so far because they would not be preceded by movements towards a common negotiating date—and that in turn was not permitted under the present pay policy.

Demanding being made for separate negotiating rights for different groups of workers would not help to rationalize the bargaining structure. It would have the opposite effect and it could be argued that it would only exacerbate the situation.

Leyland was in danger of reaching a crisis even without the current devastating series of disputes. It was already clear the present pay policy was not working.

The NEB reported to me the evening before last (he said) and the Government have considered their conclusions. For reasons I cannot go into now, the Government would not be right to make available the whole correspondence, but I can say that the outline of the main points.

British Leyland had reported to the NEB that since the major review of progress last summer the company had lost £10m. There was a reduction of industrial disputes or of improved productivity in Leyland cars and that the company was deteriorating sharply in recent months.

British Leyland also stated that unless there was a substantial improvement in performance the Government would have to consider an essential component of the Leyland strategy, was insufficient to support the cars plan.

Mr Varley said since last summer there had been an increasing number of industrial disputes at Leyland. In 1976 British Leyland lost about one-fifth of the planned production schedules and while the company was not the sole cause, they were by far the largest factor.

This year, after a brief improvement during January, the position deteriorated. It was fast becoming a downward spiral of lost production and lost wages.

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The Government (he went on) have carefully considered the NEB's conclusions and objectives and we fully endorse them.

Mr Norman Ashton (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab)—If private manufacturers like ICI, made the injection of new capital conditional upon industrial relations and the number of disputes that existed, it would be treated in this House as a scandal.

It is in the interest of a leading trade unionist like Mr Varley suddenly to enunciate a new method of this sort, when the management is the cause of many of the problems.

Mr Varley—The NEB have put certain proposals to the Government and they have asked the Government to endorse them. The NEB consists of hard nosed industrialists. Three trade unionists are members of the board and while I do not say they are necessarily the sole arbiters of this, the view I have put to the House and endorsed on behalf of the Government are the views of the NEB collectively.

One simple point: I want to emphasize this: nobody is more sick than I about this situation. I want Leyland Cars to be volume producers of cars and not a small scale operation. It is not a question of the £1,000m of Government money involved, it is the profits. (Conservative cheers.)

Part of the Leyland strategy was not only about public money but the £1,500m they would have to develop themselves.

The 1977 car plan could not be realized until there were dramatic improvements in productivity. The £1,000m would still go to British Leyland. The £25m was drawn by British Leyland last week. A further £25m would be required to carry out the plan.

He wanted those at Leyland, including those on unofficial strike today, to be clear that their future employment and the future of their company was in their hands. They could kill it or they could save it. They would have no one else to blame or to thank.

He always had high hopes that Leyland would win through and succeed, for its workforce and for the country. That hope now depended on the actions of the workforce today onwards.

Even now that hope could still be fulfilled, but time was running out fast.

He hoped that the serious statements made would be taken fully into account by all those in British Leyland and that action would be taken quickly to put the situation right. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said that last night he talked with an AUEW convenor at the Leyland factory in his constituency outside Luton. It was a worried man, not about his factory but about the whole future of Leyland. The convenor said: "How can any company continue to lose £12m a day and still be in business?"

The lack of realism of some toolmakers had put the future of Leyland at risk. The convenor said that the Leyland could go under as grave for British industry and he was not certain that the political and social fabric of the country would be such a disaster as Leyland became a viable car manufacturer and that remained the Government's wish. There was, however, a possibility of achieving that aim unless urgent action was taken with the following objectives.

There must be a complete return to work and working conditions agreed levels of output, and productivity should be achieved quickly. After continuity of production had been established, it must be sustained.

The period between now and the time when the next tranche of funds would need to be sought, must be used for discussions between management, trade unions and the workforce which would result in tangible measures offering prospects of a radical improvement in industrial relations in Leyland cars in the future.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson (Conventry, North-West, Lab) said they had to realize they were wrong in 1968 and again with the Leyland report—and he hoped they would be right in 1977. He would close down the British Leyland headquarters. It would save a lot of money. The four-day week report directly to the NEB. That was the responsibility for the success of

Chief Constable and several senior officers who were said to have been trying to cover up the abuses by the Chief Constable when they were investigated by the Chief Constable of Hampshire.

He said that the whole thing would be covered up or swept under the carpet. He said that because two of the people named in the report were members of the police authority. Too many local people were involved for it to be dealt with by the Lancashire police force and it should be dealt with by the Home Secretary.

It was so serious and urgent that the Home Secretary should open a debate and institute a local public inquiry under the Police Act into the activities of the Chief Constable of Lancashire.

Mr Robert Killick-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate to consider the report on the conduct of the Chief Constable of Lancashire by the Chief Constable of Hampshire.

He said that it concerned the extremely serious and grave allegations made against the Chief Constable of Lancashire in a report by the Chief Constable of Hampshire which had unfortunately been widely leaked in the press and treated as a great deal of public controversy and dismay.

The report showed that the Chief Constable of Hampshire had been acting in a most unbecoming manner in his long-term plans, quite apart from any decision by the Government to withhold funds.

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Leyland lay. They should redeploy the people from the head office to the divisions in the hands and on the NEB to strengthen its monitoring and control capacity on the other.

The one thing that had to be obtained—and with good will, leadership, competence and industry on the part of management it could be got—was a common grading structure across the board, common rates for that common grading structure, and a common renewal date for the various grades.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said the standard of the management on the shop floor, the foreman, manager, general manager, and director, like much elsewhere in industry, was unfortunately below the standard required and below the standard of the NCO, WO and officer in the armed forces. (Labour laughter.)

The state of morale and esprit de corps was abysmally low. Why were the workers so enormous proud to work for the greatest British car company? Why were there not flags flying at British Leyland sites? (Labour laughter.)

The time had come for heroic measures. As a start the Secretary of State should search for the finest leader in industry to be put in immediate charge of the company's affairs. He should then choose the board of directors to run the company. Someone was required to inspire the organization in the same way that Montgomery inspired the Eighth Army in 1942. (Labour laughter.)

Mr Justice Silverman (Birmingham, Labour, Lab) said it would be a serious psychological error to use the present moment to announce the abandonment of investment in Leyland. It would have the opposite effect to that intended. Morale would sink further.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, Lab) said the present form of the Leyland strategy was a disaster. It was a month's rush to the scientific assessment of pay and the conclusion of realistic bargaining within an incomes policy framework.

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by Prudence Glynn

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

Photographs by Harry Kerr

## Danish skippers get fines cut to £2,500

## Car driver must pay £70,000 damages himself

Mr. Forster, of Crown Lane, Airdiegh, near Colchester, Essex, said later: "This has been banging over my head for six years. There is no way I can ever pay this all off. I shall just have to move to another planet in a few years' time."

Arranged by his wife, Mrs. Evelyn: "A larger sum might have been awarded in damages had this case been fully litigated in court but this sum has been agreed because of the special circumstances."

Both sides were legally aided and the judge made no order for costs.

### Canterbury excavations

The Canterbury Archaeological Society has launched an appeal for £200,000 to finance excavations in and around the city. Contributions may be sent to Mr David C. Manning, the honorary treasurer, 15 Valscott, 7 Dune John, Canterbury, Kent.

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**RNLI**

These extracts are from a book called *The History of Soviet Costume* which you can buy (in Russian), from Collet's Russian Bookshop at 129-131 Charing Cross

designed clothes, whose aims were to introduce into the industrial production of clothing the beginnings of artistry shades of Morris, Liberty, and Ruskin

find out if you speak Russian, or better still, persuade Collier's to produce the translation, so that we can all get a better peep behind the iron curtain.

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Fund for Overseas Members & Government Life Member & Govt which raised Please send me details the year ended last Name , has fixed the pres- target at £1m. Already Address £329,000 has been

**RNLI**

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.



## SPORT

## Football

In Poland  
6-4-0  
adds-up to  
3-0

Hamburg SV gained a 1-1 draw with MTW in their European Cup Winners' Cup first leg tie in Budapest yesterday. The game was watched by a crowd of 12,000 and obviously the West German team have a fine chance of reaching the semi-finals in the return leg on March 16. They scored through Volker in the 61st minute and held the lead until 12 minutes from time.

Hamburg performed smoothly, held the ball as long as possible and kept a constant pressure on the Hungarian goal with fast moving attacks.

MTW played well below their usual standard. Officials blamed this on the fact whereas the West German league was being under way, the Hungarian will not return until next week after a winter recess.

In Warsaw Slask Wroclaw and Napoli played a goalless draw in another Cup Winners' Cup tie. The game was watched by 32,000 people.

It was a case of Polish pressure for 90 minutes as the Italian, after starting in a 4-4-2 formation, soon resorted to something like 6-4-0. Only two or three times was the ball on the Polish side of the field.

The Poles probably tried too hard and their efforts were chaotic and nervous. They had a perfect opportunity when Castellani broke away from a mile in front of his own goalkeepers. Castellani saved the goal only after a desperate chase. Slask had 13 corner kicks in the Italian two.

Newcastle United's directors, recently given a vote of no confidence by the players, must now face their angry shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting of the club.

Malcolm Dix, a 34-year-old businessman, presented 61 requisitions demanding a meeting at the club offices yesterday. The board have 14 days in which to convene one otherwise Mr Dix can do so himself.

The 61 shareholders all signed a statement which reads: "We the shareholders of Newcastle United FC Limited have lost confidence in the present board of directors and wish to freely discuss the implications and the enlargement of the board of directors and resolve accordingly."

Jacklin fifteenth on American four earnings list

Washington, March 1.—Jack Nicklaus earned \$50,000 for his victory in last week's Invitational tournament and moved into third place on the 1977 United States golf tour earnings list with a total of \$54,600, the US Professional Golfers' Association reported today.

Bruce Lietzke still leads with \$123,320. He withdrew from the Murray event because of the club's loss.

TOP TEN: 1. Jacklin, \$123,320; 2. Nicklaus, \$50,000; 3. Tom Watson, \$40,000; 4. Billy Casper, \$30,000; 5. Gary Player, \$25,000; 6. Jack Nicklaus, \$20,000; 7. Tom Watson, \$15,000; 8. Billy Casper, \$10,000; 9. Gary Player, \$5,000; 10. Jack Nicklaus, \$4,000.

Neill pays £80,000 to  
sign Young again

Willie Young yesterday followed in the footsteps of Terry Neill, the manager, when he moved from Tottenham Hotspur to Arsenal for £80,000. The deal was clinched by Neill, who was responsible for signing Young from Aberdeen for £100,000 in September, 1975, when he was in charge of the Tottenham side. With O'Leary and Simpson both injured, Arsenal, who have lost their last five matches, are almost certain to include Young in the side for their home game against Ipswich Town on Saturday.

Neill gave Young hope for the future, the afternoon of the "Copenhagen affair" when he brought the centre-half to London and White Hart Lane. Young, along with four other Scottish players—Billy Bremner, Joe Harper, Pat McCloskey, and Arthur Graham—had been banned by the Scottish FA for alleged misconduct in Denmark, when Neill signed him after the ban was turned down in October by the Scottish FA.

Neill said yesterday: "Obviously I would not have spent the money, either today or 18 months ago, if I had not seen him as a good player. He will be in on Saturday, and I am sure he will prove a valuable addition to the squad."

Young is the second player to leave Tottenham in the past 48 hours. When he moved to Celtic for £55,000 last night.

Young said: "It is terrific—I might not even have to move. I've thought they could do with a big bloke down the middle to play alongside David [Whelan]."

Blackburn win a battle and await result of the war

The Football League have agreed to set up a commission of investigation into complaints made by Blackburn Rovers against Newcastle United. They involve the transfer of players, most notably the goalkeeper Roger Jones, who is now with Stoke City, to Newcastle a year ago and also the chairman of Newcastle and the chairman of Blackburn, who are now with Stoke City.

Blackburn asked the League to set up the commission last week when they sent a cheque for £15,000 to the League headquarters at Lytham St Anne's. The amount was the fee Blackburn acknowledged they owe for Glen Keeley, whom they transferred from Newcastle in August. Blackburn asked the

League to hold the cheque as a guarantee that they had decided what to do about the commission.

Yesterday Blackburn agreed "under protest" to a suggestion that the League secretary, Alan Harbaker, should be allowed to pass the cheque on to Newcastle.

In return, the League say they will lift, forthwith, the ban they laid put on Blackburn signing new players until they had cleared the debt.

The chairman of Blackburn, William Bancroft, is on a world-wide business trip. The club spokesman, the vice-chairman, Derrick McGeighy, said: "We have won the day but there is no need to brag about it. The main thing is that we can now operate as a football club again, free to sign players before the transfer deadline if we need to."

Table tennis

Competitors to be given random dope tests

Random dope tests of competitors will be taken for the first time during the World table tennis championships sponsored by Norwich Union at Birmingham beginning on March 26. Roy Evans, president of the International Federation, said yesterday that allegations had been made that players had been doping but he had produced, although no one has ever produced any proof. He added: "In 1971 we began to do random testing, particularly if, on the last night, a player is crowned champion and then, two or three days later,

the title has to be removed. We have now decided to set up the machinery for Birmingham. I don't doubt whether it will serve any useful purpose. We do not expect any positive results. In fact I am quite sure we will not get any. The only thing it will achieve will be as a deterrent to the sport."

The spot tests will be taken after matches and results will be announced 48 hours later. The tests will be carried out by the University of Birmingham. Results will be paid \$335 for the work.

England will play their crucial European table tennis league match against Federal Germany in Munster today, without the England champion, Denis Neale, who has influenza.

Motor racing

Pryce's Shadow puts Hunt in the shade

Johannesburg, March 2.—Tom Pryce, of Great Britain, in a Shadow, won today's official practice for the South African Grand Prix at the Kyalami circuit on Saturday. Pryce's time was 1min 21.57sec, which gave him an average speed of 100 m.p.h.

The Welshman's time was considerably slower than the 1min 15sec set by John Watson, of Ireland, last Friday in unofficial practice. Rainy weather slowed speeds today as drivers tested their cars on the new track surface. The weather had been hot and sunny during practice.

Niki Lauda, of Austria, returned the second fastest time of 1min 22.38sec in his Ferrari. Ross Brawn, of West Germany, finished when he lapped at 1min 23.13sec.

Practising times: 1. Lauda, 1min 22.38sec; 2. Brawn, 1min 23.13sec; 3. Watson, 1min 23.13sec; 4. Pryce, 1min 21.57sec; 5. Hunt, 1min 21.57sec; 6. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 7. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 8. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 9. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 10. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 11. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 12. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 13. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 14. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 15. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 16. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 17. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 18. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 19. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 20. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 21. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 22. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 23. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 24. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 25. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 26. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 27. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 28. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 29. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 30. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 31. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 32. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 33. Jones, 1min 21.57sec; 34. Villeneuve, 1min 21.57sec; 35. Fittler, 1min 21.57sec; 36. 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## An uncomfortable figure

Ramsay MacDonald

By David Marquand

(Cape, £12.50)

The most immediately successful political books are written by the winners and survivors, and as surely as Churchill and Eden bowed Baldwin back to Bowdley and turned Neville Chamberlain into a malevolent and blundering marionette, so the inheritors of Labour's 1931 catastrophe have refused to forgive, forget and offer decent obsequies to the body and reputation of James Ramsay MacDonald. Until now, history has debated the size of political biographies was coming to be dictated by the poverty of their subject's lasting contribution to the national life. Unfair: nobody who reads Ramsay MacDonald could fail to be made aware of two things we had been carefully taught to forget—that the painstaking development of Labour as a political and parliamentary force, in the supplanting of Liberalism as chief opposition to the Tories, MacDonald was the central figure; and that, at the peak of his popularity between 1924 and 1932, he enjoyed a greater per-

sonal following than any twentieth-century British politician except Churchill. His rhetoric was accessible and exciting, while his Scots sobriety reassured Liberals who looked nervously beyond Labour to Moscow. He believed all his life that Labour should be a party united by like opinions, not confined to the interests of one class. He was the King's favourite Prime Minister and three times at least George V begged MacDonald to remain when he would otherwise have resigned. ("You have kept up the dignity of the office without using it to give you dignity," he observed, rather cleverly for a plain old king) and Mr Marquand thinks this may have been decisive in 1931.

With that kind of following, with Lloyd George continually discrediting himself and Asquith down for the last time, there is no saying what MacDonald might have done. But in his private diary (he had, and was close to, four other children.) He never belonged to any mainstream of the party and made little effort to convert touchy and difficult colleagues like Henderson and Snowden to an appreciation of his views.

He was maliciously attacked for his pleasure in high ceremonial and what seems to have been innocent and consoling friendships with a series of aristocratic women; Beatrice Webb considered his suitings much too fine for a Scot from the Moray Firth. He got his own back, though: "Interesting point where I did not merely of an article of Sidney Webb's in *Political Quarterly* (1932) 'that I alone am blamed and that reason for my downfall is flattery. Whole Webb's diplomacy has consisted in flattery, and so they have come to see no other influence in life'."

MacDonald had a marvellously sardonic sense of humour which is particularly bracing once the blood of brotherhood has been washed away and fly through the keen air in the manner all too familiar today. And this is the ace up

Michael Ratchiffe

loyalty to the Labour movement—was foreshadowed in his earlier and less known stand of August, 1914, when he refused to join other Labour members in supporting a war he believed to be unnecessary and unjust, resigning the leadership for the next nine years. It was a brave thing to do. He attacked the war throughout and welcomed every initiative for peace, including (but not for long) the Russian Revolution. Horatio Bottomley's *John Bull* called him a traitor, a coward and (which was true, since they had troubled to find his birth certificate) a bastard.

In all of this, as in all things, he seems to have stood alone. After the death of his marvellous young wife, Margaret, in 1911, together with that of their young son, David, and MacDonald's mother, Annie Ramsay, there was never a day of triumph or of the when he did not wish them by his side, and briefly recorded the sense of loss in his private diary. (He had, and was close to, four other children.) He never belonged to any mainstream of the party and made little effort to convert touchy and difficult colleagues like Henderson and Snowden to an appreciation of his views.

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MacDonald in 1900

Mr Marquand's sleeve: he has written the first full-length biography based on MacDonald's own papers—1,600 files of them now in the Public Record Office—and the diary in particular is a discovery of importance and delight. MacDonald wrote rather well—a trifle "finely" and Celtic-rhymed at times, to be sure, but never in the many entries which enrich this splendid book, he is dull.

As a self-portrait the diary is remarkable: touching, funny, morbid, affectionate, bitter, and frequently unexpected. "I might have been a memory di-

embodied", he wrote after his final retirement from politics in 1937. "Dining with Lady Grant, Robbie and Malcolm in the train north, I kept wondering who I was and how I would wake up next morning." Five and a half months later Labour's first (and last?) national leader was dead. Mr Marquand disdains both posterity's black cap and the sentimentalism of rehabilitation. He prefers to tell us more about MacDonald than we have ever known before and rarely diverges from a central study that is enthralling, sympathetic and scrupulously just.

## Pied piper parson

Dick Sheppard

By Carolyn Scott

(Hodder & Stoughton, £4.95)

The first and official biography of Dick Sheppard was so overconscious of the magnitude and difficulty of his task that he produced a laborious volume which attempted to treat the subject psychoanalytically. This so effectively discouraged others from essaying the task, that 40 years after his death, though the thousands who lined the streets of London to see his cortege pass have often talked of him, and his name is still familiar to many, few now have any clear idea what manner of man he was.

Dick Sheppard had something of the Protean character which Paul claimed, that of being "all things to all men". His personal impact on his own age was unique. It was not merely that he seemed to know everybody: rather, that everybody knew him in one aspect or another. When radio came, no voice was better known or more listened to. Neither his appearance nor his voice was particularly remarkable. Yet he was the Pied Piper of those days. He attracted multitudes and could lead them anywhere. He was an enchanter, a kindler, a Prometheus bringing the fire from heaven. He was also a parson burning out of ecclesiastical grave-clothes, as well as a well-dressed man about town, very much MCC and I Zingari. But what he was essentially convey could not easily convey. How is one to define and interpret an incarnate spiritual force pouring its energy away into a bonanza of self-gratification?

Carolyn Scott offers a certain obvious advantage over those who knew Dick Sheppard well, but dared not attempt a biography of him. She is a writer to whom he was never even *voix et proterea nihil*. Though her book may not be regarded as a masterpiece, the status of a biography, yet in a remarkable way she has created an effective evocation of what manner of man he was; and indeed, she conveys a vivid and

true impression of him which the official biographer never managed.

She achieves this by using a method of factual reportage in which narrative and comment are throughout subordinated to allowing the subject's own writings and speech to express the man himself—a difficult technique of writing which she has successfully brought off in this instance largely because it fits the subject. Dick Sheppard was not a life to be recorded in smooth euphoric prose. He was spontaneous, unpredictable, spirit-driven; Miss Scott's rapid reportage style, whether by accident or design, admirably communicates the passion and frustration of the man as he was, Nelson-like in the frailty of his physique and the greatness of his spirit.

Was the latter part of his life an unhappy failure? He had spent much of it battering himself against the imperious Established Church, and in the process omitted to keep domestic life in repair. His forlorn hope, the Peace Pledge Union, brought him more antagonists than allies. He died sadly alone. Carolyn Scott's readers may draw from her reporting of these facts the impression of a tragic figure, but so, this would be far from the truth, and, I imagine, from his intention.

Saints and prophets are more than most mankind, born to trouble, both to make and to suffer it. They are therefore notoriously hard to live with, not least because they are devoted to serving the Eternal Joy that nothing earthly saddens or defeats them. It is the clothing of Dick Sheppard's soul joy and was undoubtedly woven fine. The contemporary emerges through out Carolyn Scott's book, which her clear and fulfilling intention is to bring into the consciousness of her own contemporaries "a burning and shining light" of yesterday. It will have done her task in these pages, "he, being dead, yet speaks".

Joseph McCulloch

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## Old complexes

The Arabs

By Peter Mansfield

(Allen Lane, £8.50)

The Arabs and the English

By Sari J. Nasir

(Longman, £7.50)

Paul Rand Dixon, of the United States Federal Trade Commission, recently apologized to Arab Americans for having called Ralph Nader "a dirty Arab". This could, he admitted, "be interpreted as a derogatory reference to Mr Nader's ethnic background or to others of Arab descent", and he deeply regretted it. Refusing to apologise personally to Mr Nader, however, he told the *Washington Star*, "I understand there are Arabs who are not dirty, but Nader is dirty."

One can often read or hear blatantly racist remarks about Arabs from people who would die of shame rather than make the same remarks about West Indians, Africans or Pakistanis.

At first sight this is paradoxical. Arab civilization has been closer to that of Europe and should be much more readily intelligible to Europeans. How then has so much mistrust and misunderstanding arisen?

This question is considered in both the books under review, although Dr Nasir's is much the more limited in scope. His theme is the image of the Arabs as presented to the English, from the early Middle Ages to the present day. He quotes a series of colourful descriptions by English scholars and travellers, and devotes a long concluding section to the presentation of Arabs in successive decades of this century.

Predictably enough, he attributes some of the modern distortions to the influence of Zionism, but this factor is not unduly emphasized. What has caught the attention more is the romanticized image of the Beduin and the desert which prevails in so much of English writing about the Arabs, and the patronizing, imperialistic attitude which so often lies thinly concealed beneath it. Very few English writers have any time for Arab townspeople, except in so far as they conformed to the traditional image of the Thousand and One Nights. As the Beduin culture declined and town-based modernizing and nationalistic movements thrust themselves forward, an alienated English disillusionment set in.

Peter Mansfield reaches the problem at the end of a masterly survey of Arab history and a gemstone of the modern Arab states. His book itself, if widely read in the English-speaking world, could do much to correct the distortions of which he complains. He too concedes a certain role to Zionism, but quickly adds that "it is not by any means the only cause of misunderstanding between the Arabs and the West". In his view, "the truth about the struggle between Christianity and Islam, and the fact that Islam has never really existed, although it is being fought on different battlefields and with new weapons."

The anti-Islamic prejudice which, he says, has "gone deep into our subconscious" he attributes precisely to the fact that in the early Middle Ages Islam and Arab civilization were so close to Christianity that they posed a very serious challenge to it. Medieval Christians could have lived with straightforward barbarism or an outright denial of Christ. But a civilization in many ways superior to their own and a religion which claimed to have incorporated and surpassed Christ's teaching they found psychologically intolerable.

In this country the economic power acquired by the Arab oil-producers at a moment when we ourselves are in economic decline has reawakened an old inferiority complex with renewed vigour. It is in unpleasant ways that our own civilization's test strength will be our ability to overcome this complex, and so look the Arabs in the eye without fear or favour. Mr Mansfield's excellent book can show us the way.

Edward Mortimer

## Lions and ostriches

The Great Boer War

By Byron Farwell

(Allen Lane, £7.50)

"Nothing", said Leopold Amery in *The Times History of the War in South Africa*, "is more astonishing than the contempt the Boer generals showed for their opponents, except the fact that the contempt was almost invariably justified." Since his classic seven-volume work appeared this acerbic view has become an orthodoxy. If the British soldiers in the First World War were lions led by donkeys, in the South African war they were lions led by ostriches.

Accustomed to slaughtering herds of fuzzy wuzzies with Maxim guns, which we had got and they had not, these courageous but foolish creatures eschewed new military knowledge and buried their heads in the sand of Waterloo. *The Times History*'s account of the early part of the war is, indeed, almost enough to persuade one that the expression "military mind" is a contradiction in terms, though Amery, biased as he was, was not alone. Robert's War Office, took a more lenient view of later stages. But his exposure of Buller's and Warren's self-stultifying manoeuvres on the Tugela is quite enough to explain why it was rumoured among the Boers that to fire at an enemy general was a capital offence.

Like every work on the subject since Amery's *Colossus*, *The Great Boer War* stands in its shadow. The blurb-writer's charge that Byron Farwell has produced "a definitive history" is not only self-contradictory, it is a piece of ineptitude matched only by the editor's inability to correct his author's spelling. Mr Farwell himself is more modest. He aspires not to write a conventional military or political history but to describe "a great human drama that encompassed, as Jan Smuts said, 'a vast tragedy in the life of a people'". In this Farwell has succeeded admirably, and, if he has increased our knowledge of the war little and our understanding of it less, he has written a vivid, colourful and stylish book, more only here and there by obtrusive Americanisms. He has an eye for detail and an ear for anecdote, though he omits my favourite, surely a tale for the times—before the going to Transvaal was so poor that its Postmaster General was paid his salary in stamps.

Above all Mr Farwell takes

a delight in dancing on the graves of the reputations of British generals. They make a bizarre collection the bloated Buller, with his baggage-train full of kitchen equipment; the monocled Warren, who was so concerned about the safety of his oxen; the insomniac Buller, who was roused to fury by the sight of a sleeping man; the dapper Roberts, with his aversion to cats; the rubicund Kitchener, described (in an unpublished letter written by Walter Guinness as "the most talented murderer of his own men") the war has produced. For their epitaph Mr Farwell quotes Schiller: "Against stupidity the very gods themselves struggle in vain."

He turns to the Boers with relief. They were mostly coarse, narrow, ignorant farmers with a literal faith in the Bible—Krugers assured the American circumnavigator, Joshua Slocum, that the world was flat. Yet these magnificent fighters made fools of the best British professional troops. Their rifles were superior, as was their marksmanship, and they were quicker to adopt new methods. They also starved better than their enemies. Mr Farwell aptly compares them to Mao Tse-tung's guerrillas—fish swimming in the sea of the population. Kitchener won by draining the sea.

And yet, and yet... one does not wholly believe any of it. This is caricature history, entertaining and revealing but also one-dimensional and partisan. Amery's imposing portrait is infinitely more convincing, not merely because it is so detailed and sprang from such an immediate knowledge of his subject, but because it was informed by an intellectual power which has never subsequently been brought to bear on the South African war. But even Amery's interpretation was tendentious and his angle of vision was limited. Byron Farwell's book is *The Times History* seen through a glass lightly and as such it adds notably to the *Goodbye Dolly Gray* tradition. However, what the Boer War now needs is not more popular histories repeating each other's glosses on *The Times History* but a serious reappraisal by a powerful, independent mind. If Amery demonstrates one thing about the South African war it is that pre-natural intelligence is required by the commentator if he is to explain, or explain away, the preternatural stupidity of the participants.

Piers Brendon

## Fiction

Beyond the Bedroom

Wall

By Larry Woiwode

(Faber, with Farrar, Straus & Giroux, £6.95)

Pictures in the Cave

By George Mackay Brown

(Chazot & Windus, £3.25)

An Englishman with a love for Longfellow, Richard Hyatt, settled in North Dakota in 1892 where he created a lake called Hiawatha and a village, named after himself, which one can see through and beyond from all sides. It became a trading centre for British, Scandinavian and German immigrants and a refuge for large, close-knit migrant families. Home-raising and ransacking through their past, their modern descendants refer to Dakota as the attic of America, but Larry Woiwode in *Beyond the Bedroom Wall* revisits a universal story of life, its unimpaired in spirit, insight and the craftsmanship of its 600 pages.

He studies one family's adventures, diaries, pledges. They farm on wonderfully evoked grass plains, contending with their own early poverty more than with their transference of the Stradford evidence that as school principals who then move to Minnesota to start again from scratch, begetting doctors and television announcers—one carries a model for a foot deodorant called "Abba!"—who understandably return to their families searching for more than earthly realities. The most brilliant passages illuminate their crises: floods, burials, winter, illnesses that estrange and anger and make them relearn their limits while also enlarging their resilience and faith in strengths outside themselves; a remarkable few pages describe a party-bird priest who can hear one's secret pain.

In a novel attentive to detail, Mr Woiwode is unstraining with his energy, even quoting in the last section on Manhattan the entire unfinished *Paradise Lost* of John Milton. ("What can blow the wind away" is at this point the only line by the poet he says he admires. One sympathizes.) But his book is altogether a mature advance on his first novel, *What I'm Going To Do, I Think*, and the versatile writing enriches every page.

Tim Heald

## Unhappily ever after

Spend, Spend, Spend

By Vivian Nicholson

and Stephen Smith

(Cape, £3.95)

In 1961 Keith and Viv Nicholson won £152,319 on the pools. Now the money's gone, Keith is dead and so are two of Viv's subsequent husbands. "If we hadn't won the Pools" she moans, at the end of this quite extraordinarily depressing and unedifying book, "we'd have been in there and we would have had the front-room furnished by now." There is 113 Kershaw Avenue, Castleford and maybe she would maybe she wouldn't because when she and he shared their fortune she had already experienced one's short-lived marriage and earlier in the book she writes of that time "it was just

desperation". Earlier still she writes about her father discovering some love letters and beating her up. "This mucky whore" he shouted at her.

Still, if life was grim before the money came it can't honestly be said to have improved afterwards. The money was blued on drink, American cars, a luxury bungalow called the Ponderosa, an American tour and race horses. One night she consumed two whole bottles of Drambuie (of all things). A new life in Malta ended in disaster when the popular press (never far away) revealed that she was going to open a strip club and defy the Pope. Viv was sad about that. "I'm a Christian," she declares, "I wouldn't knock the Pope or anyone else's faith because I believe in religion a lot, I think it's morally wrong to knock it."

Her last husband died of an overdose. He had been a medicine addict and the psychiatrist said he had a mental age of eight.

All this is told in words based on fifty hours of tape recorded interviews with her co-author—an extension incidentally of a shorter interview which appeared in a more general book about pools winners. An attempt has been made to retain what is referred to as "conversational immediacy". Thus, "I used to run like bleeding hell down the street, whoooooomph!" and "he was mad with me, and pissed as well, which didn't make things better." Words like "bleeding" recur frequently along with colloquialisms such as "me aunt" and "our Geoff" and literally rendered speech. "That's not a

right arse on thee' my father said to me one day, 'that's a book which has leapt from tape to page, with little evidence of intervening polish or reflection."

At the end it is very sad to see so much dissipated life and squandered money and in a sense you can argue that the sudden access of wealth was what made the difference between all this and living happily ever after. But I can't however think you can argue it very far. If you're drunk it doesn't make much odds whether you're drunk on Telly's mild or champagne, and you can be as violently miserable in Allerton Bywater as in Los Angeles. £152,319 could have made Viv a very happy woman but she just wasn't that sort of person.

Myrna Blumberg

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Richard Harris on Tokyo's attitudes to the western world

# Trade: just one reason why Japan feels neglected

Studying Japanese feelings about their imbalance of trade with Europe is a reminder that international relations are often marred by the imbalance of feelings as between one country and another. The relations may be of more concern on one side than on the other. This, too, is an aspect of Japan's unresolved relations with the western world and following from that with the world at large. Resentment at being made the scapegoat of Europe's trading problems is emphasized by the feeling that Europe takes insufficient interest in Japan or, in extremis, looks upon the Japanese as offensive outsiders.

There is one extreme Japanese report to this which one can sometimes hear. When do these Europeans think they are? They are of no importance in a world dominated by the United States and ours is the economy second to the

United States in its world importance. We are partners of the United States and intend to remain so. Contempt as well as anger can thus enter into Japan's attitude to Europe.

This is a minority view, contradicted by—to take one example—the flood of Japanese university students who visit European countries in their vacations, some of them regarding tourism as fashionable and serving shallow purposes perhaps but many more genuinely wanting to come to grips with a culture with which they are becoming familiar in so many ways through Japan's own unhindered cultural imports from the West—books, music, art, fashions, food. Tokyo is full of it.

Ask questions about the Japanese as a whole and the reply will be that they have always been importers while remaining absolutely and consciously Japanese. Was their first civilizing effort not the importation of the written word

from China—characters, ideas and the rest that made Japan a part of the civilization of East Asia, sharing with Korea and Vietnam in the Confucian society and political assumptions that governed China? However much Japan's historical course has been her own, as much resistant to China as respectfully studying Chinese ways, the Japanese by their own behaviour towards them plainly look upon the Chinese and the Koreans as people akin to them in ways that the Russians or Thais or Malaysians are not.

East Asian civilization has thus been for centuries past a cultural zone of which Japan was a part. Moreover, in the past century the reaction of all East Asian countries to western incursion was similar: they were defending a civilization which they deemed to be superior to anything the West had to offer. Since that mid-nineteenth century "shock" Japan's course has been very different from China's how-

ever, and by now, in Japan, it is only an older generation that conserves the ancient respect for China. To a younger generation—all the under-forties—China seems alien, boxed in its revolutionary jargon, incomprehensible in some of its international behaviour, far too backward in its economic development to be even comparable to Japan.

Admitting this, admitting too the postwar American occupation, the constitution drawn up by Americans, the security treaty serving Japan's protection and above all the economic growth of the past two decades that has fastened Japan irremovably into the western world's economic system, it is startling to hear a Japanese official complain of his country's isolation, adding the observation: "We have no natural partners in proximity to our shores."

The impression thus given is of Japan as the uneasy immigrant, in flight from the greater East Asian dream,

clutching at the West for support and understanding, desperately seeking unqualified acceptance. The isolation comes partly from the island condition—something the British should understand, though the British have been much more involved with Europe than Japan has been with the Asian mainland throughout its history. Even the possibility of emigration towards an association with the West by moving out of their East Asian context would have been impossible had Japan been a part of the land-mass and not a group of offshore islands.

So now Japan as the great land power that face her and whose political cast of mind differs from Japan's. But the rejection is not enough. The seeking of full membership in the ranks of the West is not answer enough either. But why does Japan seek such identification? It might be thought that Japan's own identity is secure enough. Why is the iso-

lation insupportable for a country of 113 million people? In its continuity of undisturbed ethnic, linguistic and cultural unity no country in the world can match Japan.

The unity of Japan, the national consensus, the common sense of Japanese, actively cultivated and consciously preserved, would seem to offer enough for Japan's independence to be sustained without the backing of nearby partners and without worrying too much over relations with the western economic block.

This would seem to be fortified by the sense of enclosure Japan still relishes. The Japanese want to be understood but they do not like intruders. The foreigner/outsider and Japanese/insider view of themselves and the world is scarcely less definite in their case than in China's. This is emphasized by the fact that in Japan as in pre-communist China those who associate with foreigners (that is to say westerners) are regarded as a distinct and

acknowledged social category. Even today most Japanese families of standing would look with unease if not disdain on one among their number who married a foreigner.

Yet this self-enclosed assurance is not enough. We need a mirror for our identity, one Japanese critic has written, instancing France and Germany as two countries that have lived for centuries side by side, closely observing each other and thus historically accustomed to seeing their own images as reflected in the comparative mirror of the other's eyes. Only thus can a sense of identity be established. The Japanese then trying to escape all the centuries of Chinese superiority? Does the mature and successful Japan want to escape from the weight of China? And is the rejection easier because China can be classed as politically alien?

One catches the division in the Japanese mind by the evident wish for close relations with Australia and New Zealand.

A treaty of friendship with Australia was signed last year. These are western countries far removed geographically from the main centres of western culture that may be regarded in a regional sense as closer to Japan. But it will not be enough. Japan will still feel isolated, will still want the assurance of closer relations with the western world while retaining to itself its own Japanese world.

Japan is fragile—an adjective often used. Japan has not yet adopted any clearly formulated view of the world—hence the "shock" of outside events. The Japanese economy has been the first concern for thirty years, getting on with the job and not throwing their weight about, but now the trade difficulties raise questions that are not just economic. The mixture of anger at unjust treatment and unease at their own indecision adds up to a feeling of neglect. The emotions may not always be justified, but they need to be understood.

## Depression: a question of taking the right kind of tablets

Although about 50,000 suicide attempts are still made every year, last year's successful suicide rate was the lowest ever recorded, despite all our current financial worries and mass unemployment. But really determined suicide attempts are based not on outside environmental realities, but on a supposed reality in the patient's own mind. Severe depression, leading to suicide, is also, for some reason, more common in the northern than the southern European climates, and is at its worst in the spring. Modern drug research has also shown that anxiety states and depressions overlap, and that both may now respond to exactly the same treatments, which are very simple and physical.

About one third or more patients attending general hospitals for physical tests of the chest, abdomen and nervous system turn out to be nothing more than anxiety or depressive states exhibiting themselves in bodily symptoms. Most are people who have coped with all life's unavoidable problems, brought up families and shown normal amounts of courage and efficiency. Now everything is suddenly changed for them and they feel they cannot work any longer or can only do so with extreme tension and fatigue.

One person in four probably gets such states of pathological anxiety or depression, or more in his lifetime. Some people, however, seem able to go through life enduring terrible emotional traumas and hardships and never ever get really nervous upset. They are the fortunate ones, while at the other end of the scale some collapse at the drop of an emotional hat. But every brain and nervous system has its limit breaking point.

Patients suffering prolonged attacks of anxiety or depression are not "mad" as such. But if they are examined by an old-fashioned or ill-trained doctor and told that everything is normal physically, and it is a simple matter of willpower—which has so signally failed—suicide can become a real risk. The patients start to see no other solutions to their problems.

Compromise is too often reached between the critical doctor and the complaining patient by the giving of sedatives. Modern doctors are accused of dishing these out indiscriminately, but they have had to do so for generations past.

But the wrong drugs are being given in too many cases. Anxiety and phobic states in previously adequate personalities are being drenched with sedatives, even though they do so well with the new anti-

One person in four probably reaches a state of pathological anxiety once or more in his lifetime

depressant drugs. Sedatives need ever increasing doses and addition soon depresses. Anti-depressant drugs rarely need to have the dose increased, however long they are used. Treatments are becoming so simple that patients can even go and ask their doctor for the right sort of anti-depressant. If patients sleep deeply and well, despite their severe depression and anxiety, most will quickly respond to the group of anti-depressant drugs which is dangerous to eat cheese or other fermented foods. This is a small precaution to take. If the patient is waking early in anxiety and agitation, he must ask for a "tricyclic" anti-depressant, or possibly the combination of both these groups of drugs. If the doctor, by chance or ignorance, gives the cheap sleeping depressant only the tricyclic group, the patient can get much worse, and there is an increased suicidal risk. If patients are going to respond to either of these groups of drugs, it is generally going to be in less than a month, but they must not be stopped too soon afterwards.

Only the severest melancholics now need electric shock treatment, and once they are better future attacks of severe depression can be prevented by the simple giving of lithium carbonate. Only one or two in a thousand very severe cases may now need, eventually, one of the new and modified brain operations.

There is, in fact, now no longer any need for a previously normal person to remain anxious or depressed for years on end—which still happens all too often.

William Sargant

The author is Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

## The Times Diary

And now for your entertainment

Butler. Butler looked very pleased.

It was Healey who had to follow the act, making jokes about Galbraith's stature and, less successfully, about rival schools of economic thought and the name of Milton Keynes. "When I talk about economics," he said, "I talk about people cry." He succeeded in making people laugh, and while I never make more than a wry smile, you elicit a belly laugh from time to time. Galbraith, looking as modest as his craggy face permits, allowed himself a wry smile.

Just Like That

Thank you very much. And now, the tribute to Britain's most impersonated old joke purveyor over 6 feet tall. Variety Club's lunch marked the 30th anniversary in show business of a man who started life in the shipyards, which may explain why the Titanic went down. He out-towers Galbraith by one inch, but only if he is wearing his fez and a thick pair of socks.

Everybody got his fez on?

Mr Tony Benn has recently come back to that ancient and romantic theme which proclaims the proper historic supremacy of the dollops of the "people" movement over the ordinary toilers in factories and on the land, over the tales of kings, bishops, prime ministers and (he says) big executives and even pop stars who are given too much glamour and attention.

In one way, of course, this is a statement of the obvious. Politics exist to enable life to be lived as best it can; life does not exist so that a few men and women can play the game of politics, much as one might think so from those politicians who talk nothing but politics from breakfast to nightcap.

But in the sense in which it is customarily used in political rhetoric, Mr Benn's is a false proposition which has been exploited throughout history by many of the very leaders whom Mr Benn wishes to relate to.

There is, to start with, the self-evident practical fact that, in a free society in which people's attention is attracted to what is naturally interesting, it is no more possible to fill the history books with accounts of the honest toil of the land or factory worker; to concentrate on how they lived or what they wore and ate (though these are interesting too) than it is to fill the newspapers with "good news".

The truth is, of course, that humanity is naturally and properly interested in the exceptional because it is the exceptional which makes the human condition change and develop—besides which it is the exceptional which represents the human achievements to which the mass of ordinary people pay some respect because these achievements are a compliment to collective humanity. And such achievements are of course largely individual.

It is, of course, the kings and the leaders, the inventors and the thinkers, who change things, whether by accident or on purpose—and the leaders include Mr Benn just as they included Gerrard, without whom the liggers would have been nothing and John Lilburne who led the Levellers. Would these movements have existed without such leadership and the work of individuals who have inspired the philosophy of "populism" from Watt Tyler to Tony Benn?

School history books, Mr Benn thinks, concentrate too much on the traditions of conquerors, kings and feudal lords. But he is misled by the romantic overlay of what is usually thought of as feudalism with its heraldic trappings and its glorification of the reality of the thing was dying. For what did ordinary men in the Dark Ages put themselves under feudal obedience for if



not for their own protection, the protection which only a strong man and membership of a strongly hierarchical unit, could supply?

They may have paid a high price in tyranny. They undoubtedly often found that feudal protection should also be imposed by conquest. But, allowing for differences of time and context, there is little essential difference between the protection of a feudal society, in which rights and demarcations were rigidly defined, and the protection of a modern state union.

It is (and I mean no discourtesy by it) the role of the feudal lord or baron so utterly different from the role of the big trade union leader like Mr Jones or Mr Scanlon in relation to the individual? Mr Benn has also recently talked about the need for "a new democratic reform movement" and he sees the debate on industrial relations consequent upon the Bullock report as part of this process.

He advocates: "A diffusion of power from the narrow Establishment in which it is now concentrated, to eradicate and bring in democratic control." The first, and plainly the chief, reform he advocates, is an industrial franchise. "What is happening in British industry today," he asserted recently, "can best be understood as the beginnings of a struggle for the industrial

Ronald Butt

## Who changes things, the leaders or the led?

Benn is making a false contrast. What are the executives and the managers of an industrial concern except those who are, or ought to be, most competent to act in that capacity? Of course they will not be competent managers, nor decent human beings if they pay no regard to the conditions and opinions of their workforce which ought to have proper channels for making its opinions known. But in the end, the managers are appointed for a skill at their job just as the man on the factory floor has his skill and if he wishes to manage then the appropriate way to do so is to climb the ladder to a managerial appointment.

The same is roughly true in politics. Political leaders in every age, whether they led migrating Vikings, whether they were medieval barons or great Whigs and Tory parliamentarians—right down to Mr Callaghan, Mr Thatcher and Mr Benn—are interesting because they are a people with a capacity for leadership and to change things, which is especially what Mr Benn is trying to do.

In every age, talented men such as he, with a legitimate interest in obtaining power in order to move society in the way that they think it should go, has sought to harness the power of the people. The leaders of the English, French and Russian revolutions proclaimed it as a struggle against the princes, kings and politicians. But what are the leaders of revolutions, what are Mr Benn or perhaps Mr Norman Atkinson, but the would-be princes of a new order, a new establishment.

What are they if they are not the leaders whose deeds and misdeeds will be celebrated in the history books of the future? No leader, of course, can be effective who has not latched on to a certain spirit of his time, to the kind of social or political movement that has some momentum of its own. It is an unanswerable question how far the great turning points of history are determined by leaders and accidents, and how far by inexorable predestinated forces.

There is much that would be very interesting to know about the life of ordinary people in the thirteenth century, yet it is Magnus Carta of the politically motivated and ambitious baronage, that the history books rightly celebrate. Are we really to say that we take too much notice of them? Do we not give too much notice of Mr Benn in writing about his political notions today? I think not.

In verse we may celebrate the ordinary people living and nearly dying. In history we have to celebrate the extraordinary, the men of ideas and the leaders of the led.

## Pakistan's political prophets see the Punjab as the key to power

Political tension and acrimony has evidently reached a climax in the run-up to Pakistan's parliamentary election on March 7. The main contest is between Prime Minister Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the Pakistan National Alliance, a combination of nine mainly rightist opposition parties born some weeks ago out of the parties' common hatred for Mr Bhutto and aversion to what they regard as his autocratic style of governing the country.

Though the nominal head of the alliance is Maulana Mufi Mahmud, a bearded religious leader from Dera Ismail Khan, who earned the distinction of ousting Mr Bhutto from his constituency in the 1970 election, it is actually the former Pakistan air force chief, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a Kashmiri by birth, who leads the opposition.

Some 30,000,000 voters are involved in the election on the basis of adult franchise. They will elect from among 2,800 candidates the members for the 200-seat National Assembly and for the 460 seats in four provincial assemblies. Mr Bhutto himself and 80 other members of his party, including three chief ministers, have already been re-elected unopposed to their respective Houses weeks before the poll. In fact Mr Bhutto needs only 10 more seats for his party in Punjab to be in a commanding majority in the assembly of his home province, and five more members to be in a position to form a government in Baluchistan, where the People's Party did not win a single seat in the last general election.

One explanation of the large number of uncontested elections in Baluchistan is that the opposition refused to participate in elections there while the large numbers of troops called out in Baluchistan to quell the 1973 revolt were not sent back to their barracks.

Parishan fights have claimed more than 20 lives and 200 people have been injured. Apart from the police, troops are reported to have been alerted to meet any serious commotion, which both sides have accused each other of trying to create in order to hide their impending defeat.

The National Alliance has upset the calculations of many political prophets about the extent of the opposition to Mr Bhutto. It has drawn unexpectedly large crowds to election meetings and processions, which perceptibly perturbed the ruling party.

The opposition has sought to exploit the country's economic

hardships, excessive rise in prices, heavy foreign debt burden and the fall in industrial production, as the main grounds for attack on the government. Prices have risen by more than 90 per cent since 1973 and the foreign debt liability now amounts to \$6 billion. Private investment in industry has almost dried up and nationalised industries have made no appreciable improvement to the economy.

But the main attack has been on Mr Bhutto's treatment of political opponents. Mr Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the opposition in the last National Assembly, and many members of the new banned National Awami Party, are facing trial on charges of high treason. Many leaders of other opposition parties have been jailed for making "objectionable" speeches. Among the imprisoned are several of those who were once very close to Mr Bhutto and who helped him to found his party 10 years ago. The opposition alleges that Mr Bhutto used government machinery and special emergency powers to eliminate political and constitutional opposition and to muzzle the press. It is suggested that he even wants to change the present form of government to give himself more powers.

## Emancipation religion and birth control

Although religion should not have been an issue in predominantly Muslim Pakistan, religious feelings are being whipped up by the opposition. Air Marshal Asghar Khan has repeatedly said that Mr Bhutto cannot even see the Muslim prayer correctly. Mr Bhutto's liberal attitude towards women's emancipation and his keenness to enforce birth control are other issues which have been attacked on religious grounds.

But unless there is a real upset, the Peoples Party should be back in power on March 8. It will be the vote in the Punjab which will indicate its true strength in the coming years. Punjab has 115 seats in the National Assembly, and Mr Bhutto a long time ago declared, "Punjab is the bastion of power." He has apparently compromised with his erstwhile foes in the Punjab and several of his old political associates and socialist comrades have fallen on the other side. There is now far less talk of socialism and that should placate the majority of voters.

Hasan Akhtar

Yesterday was a day for feigning show business personalities over lunch. J. K. Galbraith, whose wit and wisdom is buried in a weekly display of television pyrotechnics on BBC 2, was at a Ford's literary lunch at the Dorchester. The scarcely less lofty Tommy Cooper, who actually originated muddled magic as entertainment, was the Variety Club's guest at the Savoy.

Galbraith had Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC, as warm-up man. Swann said he would try to redress the balance after their previous appearance together, which had been described as a mutual admiration society if not uncouth, at least decidedly fulsome. He did it by describing Galbraith as an enfant terrible and a great institution, which enabled the professor to reply that he would be glad to have Sir Michael redress his balances any time.

In best show business tradition Galbraith then paid tribute to his associates, particularly his producer, Adrian Malone. "He is a genius," Galbraith said, calling on him to take a bow. "He is a slightly mad genius. There should be credit for reckless pioneers. More conservative men would have hung to Galsworthy and gardening."

He also called an old trouper to share the limelight, describing Lord Butler who sat by his side as "dear old Master" and recommending Denis Healey to take fiscal policy "forward to

Right, here we go, and stop me if you've heard them. Max Bygraves, the second most impersonated man in Britain and the 14th funniest, is the only man in the room wearing a set of antlers. Hello dear, didn't you know it was a stag do?"

Ernie Wise who said and to Galbraith's knees, says: "He looks like an Idiot picture on Police Five." If Ernie were taller, he might be able to see a decent script.

Ron Moody has honed his cracks to a fine edge. His magic is his meter, his feet is his problem. He is, broadly speaking, mad. He peers at the 200 guests, all issued with regulation North African headgear. "Tommy Coopers are taking over the world. Ha-ha, just like that." Moody turns to the guest of honour: "He has a profile like the coast of Scandinavia; his chin is like the north face of the Elger; Easter Island is like a Cooper family reunion."

Somebody unleashes the greatest Tommy Cooper joke in the world. "Hello, is Charlie

in? 'Charlie died last night'. Pause. 'Did he say anything about a tin of paint?' Do I hear silence? It must be the way he tells them. Let's have the man himself.

"We've all had our ups and downs in show business, but my wife has always stood beside me. We only had one chair in the house." The nervous guffaw that is part of the act suddenly becomes real. "They told me to do a trick only if I was desperate. Can anyone lend me a handkerchief?" A guest offers his handkerchief. Cooper sets fire to it with a cigarette lighter, and presto! The handkerchief has a large burn in the middle. No, nor like that; like that.

The Stockport Express, announcing their charming child contest, suggests: "Have your child shot for Mother's Day."

"There is no doubt," she says, "that the coming problem of western civilization is that we have too much time. More people are living to be healthy and active at 75 and beyond, the four-day week is just round the corner, but when you look at the General Household Survey to find how many people are actually doing anything in their spare time, you find it is a frighteningly minute proportion."

"We all live in ruts. If you want a completely easy life with no complications and no achievement, fine. But most people find it kind of hard to get jobs which offer the satisfaction, involvement or fulfillment that they want. I have always remembered a recruitment poster for volunteers which I saw in the States: 'Work for free—the pay is great.'"

The idea that only middle-aged housewives undertake voluntary work, she says, is completely out of date. "I have nothing against middle-aged housewives. I am one myself. But there are an awful lot of students, young people, retired people, and some of the most vigorous volunteers are people who already have full-time jobs. Most people would be surprised how many secretaries, bank clerks and lorry drivers there are, for instance, giving an evening or more a week to the hospital service."

Mrs Moore herself has been a volunteer in politics ("terrific

fun"), school management ("very interesting"), a play group ("my favourite—the epitome of what contemporary volunteering should be like"), and befriending children in care. For her next self-appointed task, though she is going to write another book about leisure. Everyone should have some.

Murphy's law

Either I am desperately unlucky or long-distance jets invariably suffer bad delays—I suspect the latter. Certainly I cannot remember having made a long journey by air without being held up either getting there or coming back.

It has never, though, happened for such a bizarre reason as on the flight back from Hongkong. The British Airways jumbo, already an hour late, took the wrong turning when landing at Delhi and found itself the victim of what the captain called "a set of circumstances" better known as Murphy's law.

Misunderstanding the instruction from the control tower, the pilot found himself on a runway blocked by four planes, parked for the night. You are now, apparently, allowed to drive jumbos backwards and the airport tractor which could have towed us back was out of service. The four planes could not be moved for many hours.

Someone had blundered, so the noble 200 of us had to go not to the Valley of Death but to the transit lounge at Delhi, there to pick up what scraps of information the ground staff would reluctantly vouchsafe. After resisting blandishments to buy Indian jewelry and silk scarves, there was nothing to do but sit and wait for three hours.



No cigarettes on sale, and no breakfast. Dawn broke, and the tedium was relieved only by what I took to be a spark of humour from the person running the information screen in the lounge. From time to time he would flash on to the screen revolutionary slogans in the Chinese fashion.

Emergency ushers in an era of discipline, said one, though a few passengers were by now behaving in an impatient and undisciplined way. "Work more, talk less," read another—advice being adhered to by the ground staff, who were still telling us nothing.

Finally the captain received permission from the airport authorities—fearful for the safety of their runway and other planes—to make the illegal manoeuvre of driving the jumbo backwards. After we were airborne four hours late, he told us cheerfully that this could have resulted in the plane tipping on its end. As it was, he believed it to be the farthest 150 yards—a jumbo had ever been driven backwards. Another first for Britain.

According to The Scotsman world prices of butter "are currently more than 100 per cent lower than those in the EEC".

PHS





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## ONE STEP FORWARD IN RHODESIA

The Rhodesian Front party has split for the first time since Mr Ian Smith became its leader but show deep disagreement goes has yet to be seen, and it would be wise to be cautious. The nine MPs who have refused the whip on the new legislation to relax racial discrimination have used harsh words, but they may merely camouflage a temporary agreement to differ formally. Mr Smith's immediate problem is to obtain the required two-thirds majority for a bill which makes constitutional changes—that is, it alters the Land Tenure Act—and he can now do so only if enough of the eight nominated and eight elected black members of parliament vote with the Government.

On the face of it, it would seem absurd for the Africans to make common cause with the extremists of the Rhodesian Front to abort the recent conversion of Mr Ian Smith to the principle of non-discrimination between the races. When the Quenest report was published, recommending abolition of land apportionment and many other forms of discrimination, along with restoration of a common roll on a qualified franchise, Mr Smith rejected it—even though he was committed to the Kissinger plan. Now—but particularly since his last trip to Pretoria—he insists that whites in southern Africa must be prepared for the great changes in their way of life that this legislation heralds. It may even seem that the nine who have departed in disgust, along with the Party chairman Mr Frost, were Mr Smith's jailors of the past—men of the group which would not let him accept the Tiger terms, or

the Fearless terms, or settle with Mr Nkomo last year. Is he now then a free man?

Mr Smith's past dogs him, and the Africans will look at the Smith new deal in the political context. If they accepted it, Mr Smith could argue that it fully meets African claims, and then urge that the "moderate" local black leaders—among whom Bishop Abel Muzorewa is by far the most important—have no reason not to cooperate in the implementation of his version of the Kissinger plan for a transfer of power to a majority government in two years. Having got that agreement, he would hope to exclude the Marxist Patriotic Front of Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo from further discussions, and bring in the Americans and British to endorse the new arrangements.

The weakness of any such set of measures is that it would improve the situation between white and black only slowly; but if the blacks attained unfettered power in two years their government would at once drastically dismantle the structure of white privilege.

Under Mr Smith's plans, land hitherto reserved to white occupancy will be open to black purchase. But the blacks lack the capital to buy large amounts of it. Squatting is barred, and purchases of small plots cannot quickly assuage the discontent arising from land hunger (and land envy). The average African thinks all the land was African from the beginning and he expects arrangements to buy out or expropriate the white farmer irrespective of the effect on

cash cropping or productivity. To finance the Kikuyu to take over the white highlands of Kenya, British taxpayers contributed grants of about £18m. This is Mr Smith's difficulty, one that would have been solved under the Kissinger plan's provisions for a large international loan to back the settlement.

The opening of commercial areas to non-white businesses will initially mainly benefit the Asian traders, who have capital. The rest of the plan indicates that social segregation would be preserved for as long as possible. For example, the whites would still have their own schools, and the injustice under which the blacks pay for education but the whites do not (beyond taxation) would persist.

Five years ago, such partial measures would have changed the climate of Rhodesian negotiations. But five years ago, the party split would have been a full scale rebellion. Mr Smith is only able to go as far as he has, because the majority of his party can see that the situation is becoming desperate. The diehards, relying on other people's refusal to continue the shooting, refuse to admit this, and want a pseudo-apartheid system which (they fondly hope) would bring them under the South African iron umbrella. It is probable that Mr Vorster told Mr Smith that repeal of the Land Tenure Act—the dismantling of Cecil Rhodes's Rhodesia—was now his last hope in a bid for western as well as South African support. It may well be too little and too late.

## THE RAPE OF THE GLOBTIC VENUS

Take an oil tanker, owned by a British company, flying the flag of the Bahamas, berthed in a canal, and taken over by a Filipino crew. Add a flamboyant millionaire racehorse, and ship-owner, a group of "strong-arm" toughs recruited in the less fashionable bars of Humberstone, several trade unions, and an alleged communist plot. Mix the ingredients, organize an early morning raid, and the result is a mess. The issues involved in the Globtik Venus saga are confused, and mutual recrimination, accusation and criticism is bound to continue for some time. The tanker's future movements are equally unclear.

It is nevertheless possible to isolate at least some of the basic components of the intricate mass of disputes. The Filipinos' case was straightforward. They claimed, simply, that they had been underpaid, pointing out that they had received a monthly salary amounting to only half of the minimum recommended by the International Transport Workers Federation. That is a respectable and influential organisation which, as its name suggests, acts as a worldwide coordinating body for those employed in the transport field, including transport by sea, and unions throughout the world are

affiliated to it, including the British National Union of Seamen. The fact that the Filipinos had been paid a sum less than that recommended was not in issue.

Mr Ravi Tikko, in effect the owner of the Globtik fleet, does not accept the jurisdiction of the ITF, and claims that the agreement reached with the Filipinos included many fringe benefits, such as free transport to and from Manila, and that, because the crew did not have to pay tax on their earnings, which were Bahamian based, they were as well off as if they had been paid the recommended minimum subject to tax and without the peripheral advantages. He has also alleged communist influence in the recent events, based partly on the support given by the French communist union, the CGT, to the Filipinos, and partly on his view of the politics of one of the ITF's representatives for Teesside. Ironically, the CGT is not affiliated to the ITF.

The National Union of Seamen has been concerned about the treatment of the Filipinos on board the Globtik Venus for some time, but their anger only reached boiling point after the cheap novelette drama involving the boarding party launched by the Grimby pub-recruited

"security force" to recover the ship from the Filipinos. Under law, Mr Tikko was probably entitled to take back possession of the ship, illegally held, by the means he did, but that has not dimmed the anger of the unions, both British and French, who consider that the Filipinos were taking justifiable action for a just cause.

It is difficult to see how the tangled can be unravelled. The NUS has announced its intention of getting all Globtik vessels blacked both at sea and by dockworkers. There are only four of them, and the two biggest fly their trade mainly between countries whose workers may not be susceptible to union pressure. The threat is therefore perhaps not as serious as it may seem, although the possibility of some form of international solidarity should not be discounted, especially if the ITF uses its undoubted influence to that end. It is not easy to determine the rights and wrongs of the dispute, and all parties to it, except possibly the poor Filipinos, are likely to continue to show an extreme degree of stubbornness. The Gilbert-and-Sullivan-esque antics of the past few days hides an element of danger which may yet have serious repercussions.

## AN ATTEMPT ON BREACH OF CONTRACT

The Government, it was said yesterday, still have under review the reported decision to commute into a pension payable from the age of sixty the tax-free gratuity which some Royal Navy and RAF aircrew have been promised at the end of their short-service engagement. There is only one acceptable outcome of that review, and that is to scrap the proposal. For if it were put into effect the Ministry of Defence would arguably be in breach of contract and certainly be in default of a plain and widely advertised undertaking.

The lump sum (£2,750 after eight years or £5,000 after twelve) is one of the attractions of that form of service in the armed forces, and it is one of the attractions of which the ministry has made much in its publicity. A man enters civilian life at the age of thirty or thereabouts with a skill, a technical training, and a capital sum to help him get going. However, actually favorable the alternative of an inflation-proof pension from sixty may be, it does not serve the same purpose for someone who has been bank-

ing on a capital sum in the hand. It is open to the Ministry of Defence to promise a pension and not a gratuity to anyone entering on a short-service engagement in the future. It is open to it to give those who have already entered a choice between the gratuity they were promised and the proposed pension. It is not open to it retrospectively to alter the terms of their engagement for those now serving, in a way that is clearly regarded by the men themselves as being to their disadvantage.

The pressure to do so comes from the Department of Health and Social Security which appears to argue that the Social Security Acts embody the principle of an entitlement to a preserved retirement pension for anyone who has been in continuous employment for more than five years beyond the age of twenty-one, and that the armed forces are no exception. To that department the payment of gratuities in lieu of pensions in these cases is an anomaly which ought to be ironed out. To the Ministry of Defence the arrangement is an obligation in

respect of those already serving and a useful recruiting point. And theirs is decisively the better view.

If the DHSS is claiming (and if the claim is correct) that the armed forces have a statutory duty to pay pensions in these cases, that duty cannot be held to override an undertaking given to serving officers at the time of their engagement. Either the law should be amended to admit of this exception, or Parliament should accept the financial consequences of its legislative incompetence and pay these men both the gratuities they were promised and the pensions the statute awards them. If the DHSS is claiming not that the Act imposes a duty on the armed forces but that they ought to conform to some general principle of pensions policy, and further that they ought to conform at the time of their engagement to men now serving, then the department ought to be told, in whatever parlance inter-departmental committees use, to buzz off.

Some months ago *The Times* reported on the acquisition by this Council of the Royal Agricultural Hall, a Victorian complex of historical and architectural significance. An advertisement was placed in your columns in June 1976 asking for ideas on its use for recreational purposes. My committee will shortly be considering a plan to convert the buildings into a major ice-skating centre which would provide much needed training and public skating facilities on two levels, and preserve the best elements of an historic building as well.

The cost, however, could be no stretch of the imagination but borne by the rates of one London borough alone. If our recommendations are accepted we will in the next few weeks be launching a national appeal for funds and would hope to attract a response both from those who have the interests of skating and the young people at heart and those who are concerned with preserving a part of London's heritage.

Yours faithfully,  
PATSY BRADBURY, Chairman,  
Recreation Committee,  
London Borough of Islington,  
Town Hall,  
Upper Street, N1,  
February 28.

## Splitting the Treasury

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, As you were good enough to refer to me in your interesting leading article today (March 2) perhaps I may be allowed to make one or two comments on it.

First, on a point of fact, my own 1973 study was not a supplement to Sir Richard Clarke's *New Trends in Government*. It was number two in the Civil Service College Studies (of which Sir Richard's was the first) and was concerned with the more limited, though still vital area of government, namely the evolution and operation of the system of public expenditure management and control in this country. It was written in the light of experience of the six years after Sir Richard left the Treasury, an eventful period which included such developments as the loss of control over public spending in 1966-68; its re-establishment under the Jenkins Chancellorship 1968-70; the drive to cut expenditure in the interests of lower taxation 1970-71; and the subsequent reversal of that policy after 1971. The inclusion of such major events on the institutional side as publication of the annual White Paper on public expenditure and appointment of the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure and its various sub-committees.

My principal object then was to describe the Treasury's role in developing and operating the Public Expenditure Survey Committee system (PESC) which Sir Richard largely originated, and to emphasize the essential unity of economic management in which public expenditure was a principal instrument of policy inextricably meshed in with all the others, that is, taxation, monetary, credit, industrial and foreign policies. Your defence of this basic unity in your leader could hardly be bettered and should carry conviction with all but the most prejudiced.

The central mistake of those who seek to dismember the Treasury is the belief that the size of public spending is decided primarily by itself as a once-for-all act, after which the only job is to stick to a pre-determined total and to a number of pre-determined figures for the programmes of individual departments. This is not and cannot be a realistic policy. Spending is either as to the size of the public sector as a whole is arrived at or as to the systems and techniques of determining and controlling the various departmental programmes which comprise it.

These techniques include a continuous dialogue between Treasury expenditure and the various spending departments, a dialogue conducted against the background and in the knowledge of the Government's total economic strategy. What advantage would there be in pursuing this dialogue into a dialogue? Would this not be a complex matter and more for the Treasury to handle? In this field as in more glamorous aspects of life "two's company, three's a crowd". If it is felt that the original Fulton split of the Treasury and creation of the Civil Service Department was a mistake the remedy lies in reuniting it with the Treasury of a number (not all) of the functions of the CSD, such as pay and management, rather than dismemberment: of the central department, which should as you have demonstrated continue to be responsible for the Government's general economic strategy.

Yours faithfully,  
S. GOLDMAN,  
1 Noble Street, EC2,  
March 2.

## Future of Mentmore

From the Editor of *The Connoisseur*  
Sir, Mr Sumption's assumptions (March 1) are certainly novel in the present age. He seems to advocate the cause of the private collector who can enjoy the use of great works of art well away from the public eye and enjoying minds of the numerous public. Contrary to the evidence, he seems to believe that museums are lifeless, valueless and repelling. What a sad, lonely view.

Surely one of the principal attractions of Mentmore as a collection is that it would fulfil a dual function for visitors. They can enjoy the objects for their intrinsic interest and also understand more about the attitudes and opportunities of a great nineteenth century collector—art and history most happily combined.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM ALLAN, Editor,  
*The Connoisseur*,  
Chattergate House,  
Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1,  
March 1.

## Ice-skating rink plan

From Mrs P. A. Bradbury  
Sir, Michael Coleman in *Sportsview* (February 26) drew attention to the plight of ice-hockey teams in London and the general acute shortage of skating rinks.

Some months ago *The Times* reported on the acquisition by this Council of the Royal Agricultural Hall, a Victorian complex of historical and architectural significance. An advertisement was placed in your columns in June 1976 asking for ideas on its use for recreational purposes. My committee will shortly be considering a plan to convert the buildings into a major ice-skating centre which would provide much needed training and public skating facilities on two levels, and preserve the best elements of an historic building as well.

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Yours faithfully,  
PATSY BRADBURY, Chairman,  
Recreation Committee,  
London Borough of Islington,  
Town Hall,  
Upper Street, N1,  
February 28.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Proposed cuts in defence spending

From Mr Patrick Wall, MP for Halespence (Conservative)

Sir, The Statement on the Defence Estimates just received is an even greater fraud than usual. It is true that the Secretary of State for Defence has to fight on two fronts—against the Tribune Group, who want drastic further cuts, and with the more responsible members of the Parliamentary Labour Party who are growing increasingly worried at the emasculation of our defence forces. Even so, to take four pages to describe the increased Soviet threat and the rest of the White Paper to justify further defence cuts can only be described as fraudulent.

One of the techniques is to carry over warship building programmes from one year to the next in order to imply that a new ship is to be ordered. In fact the reduced building rate of an submarine fleet, and the loss of control over the ever increasing Soviet nuclear submarine fleet, is causing our allies acute distress. Not only has the active fleet been reduced by four frigates but eight projected destroyers or frigates will not now be built.

Our capability to carry out one of our major Nato commitments, to reinforce the Northern Flank, is now in question, the Royal Marine Commandos having lost their Commando carriers and assault ships

and had their helicopter lift cut by 50 per cent—hence the chartering of civilian ferries for last year's reinforcement exercises!

Today the Soviet Army in Central Europe could attack with only a few hours' warning yet with a large part of BAOR in Ulster, little thought seems to have been given to immediate reinforcement.

BAOR was, as the Statement says, "highly trained volunteer professionals", but this will no longer be the case when they are starved of training facilities because of cuts in fuel, ammunition and tank track mileage.

Of all services the Royal Air Force is perhaps the most overstretched. With under 200 front line aircraft it is expected to support BAOR against a massive Soviet land-air onslaught, to protect British air ports, to patrol the North Sea oil rigs and to provide maritime reconnaissance and the air defences of the Royal Navy—all with a total of under 800 aircraft!

Research and Development which endangers the one field of advanced technology in which the allies are ahead of the USSR.

Yours sincerely,  
PATRICK WALL,  
House of Commons,  
March 1.

## Release of Rudolf Hess

From the Bishop of Bath and Wells

Sir, I shall not answer this question either of course (Bernard Levin on Rudolf Hess (your issue of March 1)). Why not? I believe he might and should. Among many scandals Mr Levin so fearlessly denounces, this Spandau nonsense surely strikes the vast majority of Englishmen as particularly obscene.

As well as enlisting the help of the United Nations, as mentioned by Mr Levin, there is Amnesty International, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is a very active British patron. This organization, which has primarily to do with the release of prisoners of conscience—a category of course totally inapplicable to Hitler's right hand man—also "opposes cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment for all prisoners"; and such is precisely what the fact powers, unwillingly after all these years in the case of the three Western ones, are now meeting out to this old man. Let Amnesty International therefore adopt Rudolf Hess, and it could well be as successful as it

has been in many other cases, for example that of Tobias Manyonga of Rhodesia. Furthermore the World Council of Churches, which has strong support in Western Germany and has for long been bravely outspoken and practical in its concern for the underdog, would I am sure share now in an ecumenical campaign for compassion.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BATH & WELLS,  
The Palace,  
Wells,  
Somerset.

## Doctors' earnings

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, I have read with interest the conclusions drawn from the result of the New Earnings Survey 1976 by Mr Layard and Professor Layard (your issue of March 1). They quite rightly point out that the period covered by the survey does not correspond exactly with that of the £6 a week pay policy (August 1975-August 1976). There were several large pay settlements between April 1976 and April 1977 which may well have contributed to the increases in earnings discovered by the survey. It is also possible, of course, that all employers did not apply the pay policy with equal vigour.

As far as the medical profession is concerned, with the government as virtually its sole employer—the award of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration in April 1976 applied the "voluntary" pay policy rigidly to doctors. There is no way in which doctors' earnings could be increased by over 10 per cent in the NES (above the third point on the senior registrar scale) can have maintained their relationship to average earnings over this period. Increases for this group of doctors under the £6 pay policy ranged from 5.5 per cent for the senior registrar to

## Censorship of erotic art

From Mr David Holbrook

Sir, The letter from Mr Richard Hamilton and others (February 26) seems to suggest that no lines should be drawn over the toleration of what they call "erotic art". In the name of freedom we must apparently "stand up for bastards"—for the Edmunds of this world. Yet the Edmunds who base their dealings with the world on fanatical immorality and hate have generated some terrible problems in our time. It now seems that the arts are being used to pervert any truth, and debate any value—here we really allow this to happen? Bruno Bettelheim recently protested in *The New Yorker* against a film (*Seven Beauties*) which makes such a joke of the concentration camp that it seems to imply that life outside the camps and inside the camps is equally unad—so that no discriminations may be made. It even makes a joke out of being drowned in

ecstasy. To some of us the destruction of symbolism and the undermining of values in the modern arts is promoting a dangerous nihilism. Yet in the field of public discrimination there has been a total collapse. Parliament did not intend that our theatre should be so taken up with pornography, and it did not intend to those values upon which democracy depends.

In this situation what is needed is continual testing of pornographic works under the law, in an atmosphere of continuing critical debate. This we do not have. Obscenity on the stage, for example, has never been put to the test of legal trial, because it is established where there is to allow prosecutions. And as for debate, our intellectuals have substituted campaigns for discourse. Books like Viktor B. Cline's *Where Shall We Draw the Line?* (Brigham Young University Press) cannot find a publisher. Robert Stoller's *Perversion: The Erotic Form of Hatred* (Harvester Wheatsheaf) has been reviewed almost nowhere except in the *Times Literary Supplement*; some magazines will publish nothing that does not argue in favour of total abolition of censorship (eg *The New Humanist*). Yet there are obvious problems: a recent report from America suggested that Americans are spending over £500m a year on pornography involving children, while some children are actually being sold into pornography by their parents. And in a future issue of the *Journal of the Institute of Criminology* Dr John Court is publishing evidence of an effect on serious crimes where pornography has been tolerated in various countries.

Obscenity may be acceptable where there is a serious overall artistic or scientific purpose. This can only be established where there is an informed debate. But it is a principle which has been lost sight of in our society, and in my experience there is a heavy indirect censorship of the proper examination of this problem, far more serious than the banning of a few of the more outrageous manifestations of so-called eroticism.

Yours etc,  
DAVID HOLBROOK,  
Longacre,  
Haverhill Road,  
Stapleford,  
Cambridge,  
February 26.

## John Evelyn's library

From Lord Kenyon and Mr Edward Warner

Sir, In view of the widespread concern and anxiety which has been expressed with regard to the future of the Library of John Evelyn the Diarist, we write in order to make it known that a letter on behalf of the Executive Committee and of the Friends of the National Libraries, last week addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to exploring the possibility of safeguarding the future of the library as an entity.

Indication of support for such a course, on the part of individuals and institutions, will be of value and encouragement to the Friends: an appeal to the public will follow in due course if appropriate.

Yours faithfully,  
KENYON, Chairman,  
EDWARD WARNER, Secretary,  
The Friends of the National Libraries,  
c/o The British Library,  
Great Russell Street, WC1,  
March 1.

## What Keats drank

From Mr A. D. Fitton Brown

Sir, About "the true, the blushing Hippocrene", Hippocrene of course flowed with water, but Keats regarded wine as the true liquor of poetic inspiration, and water becomes wine when it blushes. This point was recognized by the young Crashev in his memorable verse on the miracle at Cana: "Nympha pudica Deum vidit et erubuit".

Yours faithfully,  
A. D. FITTON BROWN,  
Department of Classics,  
University of Leicester,  
February 28.

## A Queen's Hall relic

From Mr Felix Aphrahman

Sir, Mr Gavin Henderson's idea (letters, March 1) is charming, but he has mislaid the Artists' Entrance of the Queen's Hall. It was in Riding House Street, and not a trace of it remains. His proposal would, of course, commemorate the quick exit route of the orchestral brass to the Glue Pot, or the spot where the legendary Bobbie prevented the blowing of the Lenora III trumpet calls with: "You can't do that there 'ere. There's a concert a-going on in there."

Yours faithfully,  
FELIX APFRAHAMIAN,  
The Athenaeum, SW1,  
March 2.

## Freedom in science

From Mr M. G. P. Stoker

Sir, In your issue "Scientists must defend their rights" (February 18), you discuss the new report *Science, Religion and Human Rights*, published by the Council for Science and Society in collaboration with the British Institute of Human Rights and you mention possible actions bodies such as the Royal Society I, therefore, draw the attention of your readers to the anniversary of November 30 last by the President, Lord Todd, in which he set at length with the problem of freedom in science, and the role of the Royal Society. The address, which is published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, should be read in full and I will not attempt to say here I expect to draw attention to the following.

The President pointed out that the persecution and sometimes incarceration of individual colleagues for political views, or simply desire to emigrate, is a matter for severe public condemnation, but is made neither better nor worse by the fact that the victim is a scientist, rather than any other member of the com-

munity. A scientist should, therefore, protest, not qua scientist, but rather as a citizen, especially one of a country which subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights laws. The Royal Society, as such, has no special position or qualification in the human rights issue; but this will not prevent fellows, including officers, from taking action as individuals.

Lord Todd stressed, however, that the Royal Society, throughout its long history, had been directly and deeply concerned with freedom of scientific inquiry and exchange of views between scientists, irrespective of race, creed, or national boundaries. In particular, he deplored the decision of UNESCO to withdraw financial support from any scientific meeting which allows participation by scientists whose governments are unpopular with the majority of member states, as a threat to the freedom of science.

The Royal Society has used, and will continue to use, its influence on governments, including our own, to remove obstructions where these can be identified. Sometimes this influence is most effectively ex-

cuted through the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the premier non-governmental scientific organization, whose declaration on the subject is adhered to not only by the Royal Society but by equivalent bodies from other countries, including those most often subject to criticism. ICSU, through its Standing Committee on Free Circulation of Scientists, regularly considers alleged violations of the principles of free scientific interchange, issues advice, and maintains in Stockholm a register of cases which, incidentally, may meet some of the requirements for an international clearing house as proposed in *Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights*.

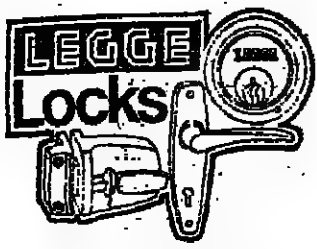
More important, ICSU can exert considerable pressure on governments and other agencies, for example, by withholding support for international meetings of its constituent unions in countries which restrict the attendance of scientists or the free flow of scientific knowledge.

Yours faithfully,  
M. G. P. STOKER,  
Foreign Secretary,  
The Royal Society,  
6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,



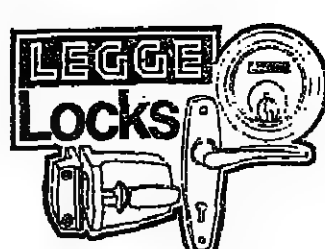
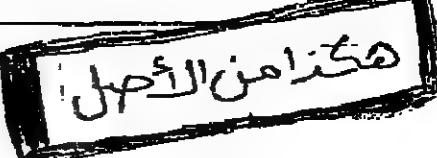






# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS



### Reserves rise £345m to highest level for more than two years

By Malvern Westlake  
More confidence in the economy helped to bring further large sums of money into Britain last month, obliging the Bank of England to buy foreign currency extensively to prevent the pound rising too far.

As a result, the nation's reserves of gold and foreign currency rose by a further £345m (£345m) in February to £7,787m, the second highest level on record. The previous peak was £7,524m in November 1974.

This follows the huge January rise in reserves of nearly 75 per cent when Britain received the first instalment of its loan from the International Monetary Fund. Although the latest increase is considerably below that for the previous month, it still represents an unusually good improvement in the reserve position.

Contributing to the latest rise is the first drawing—£250m—from the \$1,500m loan recently raised by the Government from an international group of banks. Another \$100m resulted from borrowings made by the National Water Council from the European Investment Bank.

But much of the balance of the increase in reserves—£331m—stems directly from the Bank of England's intervention in the foreign exchange market.

The pound was less competitive than it was in January, particularly in the wake of a much wider trade deficit and the mounting opposition of some trade unionists to a further stage of pay restraint.

Even so, it is obvious that the Bank of England was more involved in holding the exchange rate of the pound down than in propping it up. Throughout the month the rate was held between \$1.9550 and \$1.7180.

But it has become increasingly clear in recent weeks that much less of the money that is flowing into Britain is of the speculative, volatile variety than was originally thought. Such inflows present considerable problems to the authorities because, while the kind of hot money is inclined to flow just as quickly.

According to the latest assessment in Whitehall, however, the earlier estimates that as much as \$1,000m of hot money may have been invested in the government bond market are too high by a large margin.

The main inflows appear to have been to the account of residents, and the unwinding of the

### Banks get support on inflation accounting

By Christopher Wilkins

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is putting its weight behind the banks' demands that any new inflation accounting system should make full allowance for changes in the value of monetary items.

In the Institute's view, which emerged at a meeting of its council yesterday morning, it puts it into direct opposition to the proposal of the Sandilands Committee and the Morphet Committee, which produced an exposure draft on inflation accounting last December.

Sandilands considered that no adjustments for inflation in respect of monetary items should be made in companies' profit and loss statements.

As a preferred solution, Morphet followed the Sandilands principle but suggested that adjustments might be made in a separate profit and loss account.

Banks have argued strongly that adjustments for monetary items should be made in profit and loss accounts to cover the erosion of their capital in relation to the overall growth in their businesses.

In acknowledgement of its own uncertainty on this issue, the Morphet Committee set up a separate working party to look into the problems of the banks.

The council's meeting was only the first stage of its discussions on inflation accounting, and nothing more than the broad principle of support for inclusion of monetary adjustments in the profit and loss account was agreed upon.

A further meeting is to be held on May 4 to consider the Institute's final submission to the Morphet Committee and, in the meantime, its technical committee is looking into the issue in more detail.

Apart from the question of monetary items, which has been the most contentious feature of the inflation accounting debate so far, the Institute has come out in favour of the central concept underpinning the Morphet proposals.

But it is seeking extensive modifications. It wants the exposure draft to be simplified, for instance by the exclusion of leasing from any new inflation accounting standard. It also wants the minimum size of turnover of companies required to produce current cost accounts to be raised from £100,000 to £500,000.

The Institute believes that the appropriate account, proposed by Morphet to show revaluation surpluses and any extra allocations necessary to maintain the substance of the business, should be audited.

On the question of the discretion allowed to directors in making this allocation there has been some criticism, and a recent report by the auditing practices committee has cast doubt on whether it would be possible to audit appropriation accounts.

Other main alterations proposed by the Institute are that historic cost accounts should be retained as a supplement to current cost accounts for a year longer than proposed by Morphet, and that there should be a common starting date for the introduction of the new system for all companies. Morphet proposed that big companies should introduce it before small ones.

### Sharp rise in gold ahead of IMF auction

Gold bullion rose strongly in price yesterday in advance of the International Monetary Fund's auction—the first of the new series of monthly auctions with 525,000 ounces on offer.

At the close in London gold was \$144—a rise of 53 on the day although slightly off its peak during dealings.

The rise was seen as encouraging for the success of the IMF auction because it reversed the movement seen on Tuesday and topped the promising rise on Monday.

### Fiat delegation in Peking talks

Rome, March 2.—A Fiat delegation headed by Signor Nicola Gioia, the board member responsible for international relations, arrived today in Peking from Turin for talks with the Chinese authorities on sectors other than motor cars.

The talks had been under preparation for nearly a year. Signor Gioia is accompanied by experts in the fields of industrial vehicles, industrial motors, forklift trucks, machine tools, earth-moving equipment and tractors.

### Israeli prices pledge softens 2pc devaluation

A further 2 per cent devaluation brought the Israeli pound to 9.25 to the American dollar (15.7 to the pound). The devaluation, the first since January 17, was accompanied by government assurances that prices of basic commodities, fuel and public transport will remain unchanged. Other prices are expected to rise steeply.

### Leyland board seeking ways to avert drastic review proposed by NEB

By Edward Townsend

British Leyland's board is certain to meet before the end of this week to agree on emergency measures to avoid the drastic review of the car division's capital investment programme which the National Enterprise Board said yesterday would be necessary unless there was a return to sustained output.

The NEB has reacted with a decision that the scope of the investment programme for Leyland Cars would have to be cut substantially if cash continued to flow out of the company at the present rate.

Under its chairman, Lord Ryder, the NEB is due to provide £1,400m to British Leyland under the 10-year Ryder plan, with a similar amount generated by the company internally and from non-public sources.

Faced with Leyland's alarming financial predicament, the NEB realises that under its guidelines there will be no government guarantees to creditors of any NEB subsidiaries (except in the cases of Rolls-Royce (1971) and International Computers).

As a result, should any NEB subsidiary go into liquidation, the board is bound to act in the same way as a private company.

The company's cash problems were underlined yesterday when it disclosed at a Commons Select Committee hearing dealing with the British Steel Corporation that

report to the NEB—its largest shareholder and provider of investment capital—that lost production resulting from the strike of strikers was putting the company in a position where it was no longer viable.

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The company's cash problems were underlined yesterday when it disclosed at a Commons Select Committee hearing dealing with the British Steel Corporation that

it had asked the BSC to suspend manufacture of steel until further notice. This will perhaps save Leyland Cars some £500,000 a week, but it poses problems for BSC, which is struggling to maintain sales in a depressed market.

There was also irony yesterday in the latest United Kingdom car production figures, which showed that in January, British Leyland made more cars—68,568—than in any month since the resuscitated company began operations in September, 1975. The company's previous best month was May last year, when it produced 66,068 cars.

Against this is the Prime Minister's comment on Tuesday in the Commons that in the past year, Leyland had failed to produce 200,000 cars. Under the Ryder plan, which stressed (in April, 1975) that urgent action must be taken to remedy the weaknesses which at present prevent it from competing effectively in world markets, the company's operations were divided into four separate businesses, each a profit centre. They were cars, trucks and buses, special products and international offshoots.

From the start, the car division has wilted while the other

businesses have flourished, and the failure has been almost entirely blamed on poor industrial relations.

Leyland Cars accounts for almost three quarters of the company's activities and is due to receive the major share of the planned investment. Big foundry projects, the replacement for the Mini in 1980, factory expansions and modernisations, major machine tool purchasing and the introduction of face-lifted models and new ranges of cars, all designed to build Leyland into a major European force in the motor industry in the next decade, are planned.

The Ryder report concluded two years ago that BL's present levels of capital expenditure and working capital were far too low. Even to maintain the level in real terms needed a profit of at least £100m a year and much larger sums to make up for the capital rundown of the past.

More lay-offs: The number of workers laid off in British Leyland plants rose to more than 30,000 yesterday with the probability of up to 40,000 more before the week's end. The new lay-offs involved workers in ancillary areas where car production is already halted.

### Moves to draw Saudis into IMF loans plan

From David Blake

Paris, March 2

Senior international monetary officials are now studying plans aimed at increasing the resources available to the International Monetary Fund by several thousand million dollars.

It is hoped that a scheme involving the Saudi Arabians being brought in to a special lending relationship can be worked out in time for the next meeting of the IMF's interim committee on April 28 and 29.

It is hoped that such a scheme could boost the fund's resources by at least \$12,000m (about £702m) with figures as high as \$20,000m to \$30,000m being considered possible.

Soundings out of a discreet sort are about to get under way with the Saudi Arabians. The chairman of the Group of Ten, Mr. Willie Clery, Belgian finance minister, is expected to fly to Saudi Arabia next week.

It is also believed that Dr. Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the fund, has been in Saudi Arabia for talks.

The money, if it can be raised, will be used for the extra tranche of loans to countries in great difficulty, which was foreshadowed in the Jamaica agreement in January, 1976. This tranche would only be used under very stringent conditions.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, recently stressed Germany's willingness to participate in raising money for this scheme in an interview in a Saudi Arabian newspaper, the Saudi Gazette.

So far, it is not clear whether the Saudis will react to any such proposal. But it does seem certain that seeking to introduce such a scheme is now playing a central role in the thinking of some leading international financial circles in the West.

Growing concern has been voiced about the limited resources available to the official elements trying to deal with an increasingly difficult problem of financing the external deficits of countries in trouble.

This concern recently found expression in a speech by Mr. Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, who last week visited Saudi Arabia on a trip aimed at discussing the possible purchase of United Kingdom bonds denominated in foreign currency.

It is not known whether the idea that the Saudis should play a greater role in providing funds to international financial institutions was discussed during his visit.

At the moment the basic idea seems to be to get Saudi Arabia to accept an elite status as a lender to the fund, possibly through association with the general arrangements for borrowing or perhaps in some new "club" composed exclusively of creditor nations.

### £3.6m Saudi order

Swifts Cages of Scarborough has received an export order worth £3.6m from Saudi Arabia for housing cages and ancillary equipment under the second stage of a poultry project located near Riyadh.

### State backs Clyde rig with £13m

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Up to £13m will be supplied by the Government for the construction of a speculative oil exploration rig for the British National Oil Corporation by the American-owned Marathon UK company on the Upper Clyde.

It will provide much needed employment for the company whose order book has been exhausted.

Mr. Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons last night that he had asked the BNOC to negotiate with Marathon for the purchase of the rig within guidelines laid down by the Government.

The Government decided before Christmas to provide cash for BNOC to build the rig as a speculative venture following the company's decision to lay off over 1,000 of its workers after the delivery of its last order.

The Energy Secretary made it clear because of the large commitment by the Government towards financing of the contract, it would require to approve the terms and conditions, although the detailed negotiations would be undertaken by the BNOC who would place the order on its own account.

Elsewhere within the troubled shipbuilding industry Swan Hunter announced last night that it had completed negotiations with the Bowring Steamship Company for an order for a 28,000 tons deadweight bulk carrier for delivery in April next year. The ship is to be built at the group's Hebburn yard.

### Monopolies Commission uncovers price ring in copying materials

By Ronald Emley

The Monopolies Commission has uncovered a price ring which operated in the late 1960s and early 1970s in the supply of diazo copying material—papers, cloths and films which have been made light sensitive by coating them with diazo compounds, used largely in drawing offices.

Yesterday the Director General of Fair Trading placed on the public register 22 previously unregistered verbal agreements relating to parallel pricing of cover papers and discounts of the four major suppliers in the United Kingdom. They are Oalid, GAF (Great Britain), Addressograph-Multigraph and Harper & Tinsell.

In a Commons reply yesterday Mr. John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said the Government took a serious view of the existence of the unregistered agreements.

In its report published yesterday the commission found that Oalid held a monopoly (it held more than 50 per cent of the market in 1974-75) and that the other three companies might be in a complex monopoly situation.

A complex monopoly is defined as one in which suppliers have more than 25 per cent of a market jointly and conduct their respective affairs so as to restrict or distort competition by charging the same or similar prices or offering the same or similar discounts." Mr. Fraser said.

Existence of the unregistered agreements prevented the Monopolies Commission from taking into account all the facts it received when drawing up its

report. In effect it had to disregard the price agreements, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Restrictive Practices Court, and thus it could only find that the Oalid monopoly did not operate contrary to the public interest and that it was impossible for it to determine whether the potential complex monopoly of the other three companies exists or did so at the time of the request for its inquiry.

However, the commission did find, Mr. Fraser said, that "Oalid's profits had been higher in recent years than might have been expected in fully competitive conditions but again they were unable to say how far the profit levels resulted from any limitation of price competition arising from unregistered agreements or how far, if at all, from the monopoly position of Oalid."

In the absence of any adverse findings by the Monopolies Commission the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection could take no further action. He said.

It is thought likely that initially he will seek court orders declaring the agreements subject to registration under the 1956 Act and thus illegal and void. He will probably also seek an order directing the companies to register any further agreements before making them effective and to give an undertaking not to revive any of the 22 agreements.

A later course of action could involve seeking a ruling on whether the agreements operated against the public interest.

The third agreement put on

the OFT register yesterday refers to the "Top Twenty" specified customers who were all to be offered similar prices and discounts. They included British Leyland, GEC, British Steel, Ford, General Motors, British Railways, Hawker Siddeley, the National Coal Board, Plaxley and Rolls-Royce.

One of the "Top Twenty" was ICI, which the commission noted in its report, had an agreement with Oalid under which the latter "has been able to obtain a price more favourable than that charged by ICI to other diazo manufacturers" because of its commitments to large purchases of film. There is also a technical collaboration agreement between Oalid and ICI.

Mr. Fraser said yesterday that he understood all the agreements had been brought to an end.

Because the agreements were verbal none of the companies is completely sure which operated at any given period and indeed there are doubts as to whether some of the 22 agreements registered yesterday were in fact made.

An Oalid spokesman said last night that all arrangements as far as they were aware had come to an end before the Monopolies Commission reference in July, 1974.

Oalid had provided as much information to the commission as was possible. Seven different volumes of material, some of them substantial, had been put together for the commission.

Oalid welcomed the commission's conclusion that there was no operation against the public interest.

Oalid last month accepted a £246m takeover bid from Oceanic Grinden of Holland.

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### Americans spur OECD growth

From Our Economics

Correspondent

Paris, March 2

Senior officials from the major industrial countries of the West today said that the summary measures being taken by the United States would raise the growth rate of the 24 nations in OECD during the second half of this year to 4.1 per cent, compared with the 3.4 per cent expected earlier. However, the improvement will be concentrated heavily in the United States.

The meeting ended without any sign that the Germans are prepared to adopt more expansionary policies to raise their growth rate. Indeed, the meeting here of the OECD economic policy committee seems to have ended with the German position even firmer in spite of pressure from the United States and others for more expansion.

The committee ended by saying that any revival in productive investment still rested heavily on eradicating inflationary expectations. The communiqué carefully refrained from taking sides between those who want more expansion by the stronger countries, notably Germany, and those who fear that this would lead to a new wave of inflation.

Today's communiqué restricts itself to saying that temporary measures "may be appropriate". It also talks of the difficult balance necessary for expansion fast enough to cut unemployment but not so fast as to prevent a fall in inflation, without saying where this balance should be struck.

Faced with the firmness with which the Germans hold their view, it is difficult to see how the proposed world economic summit could provide any major new stimulus, at least short term.

This is reinforced by the fact that practical difficulties have arisen which may prevent the first ministerial meeting in April to prepare the ground for the summit. The meeting may now have to be pushed back to June, after the summer.

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### How the markets moved

The Times index: 167.77-0.48

The FT index: 410.6+0.2

### Rises

Allen, H. & Ross 10p to 430p  
Art-I-Tam 10p to 120p  
Beesdam 5p to 62p  
Coke Ind 5p to 110p  
Hawthorn, L. 10p to 56p  
Home Chance 5p to 78p  
Midland 5p to 26p

### Falls

Brathwaite 10p to 25p  
De Beers Ind 20p to 39p  
Ego Hides 10p to 23p  
Globe 10p to 23p  
Imp Cont Gas 15p to 36p  
Jardine, M'eson 5p to 25p

Equities had a subdued session. City-listed securities rallied from early losses.

Sterling gained 15 points to close at \$1.750, index of the £ effective depreciation on new basis stood at 61.2 (December 1971-1976). On old basis the depreciation rate was unchanged at 43.1 per cent.

### On other pages

Business appointments 20  
Appointments vacant 24  
Financial news 19  
Financial notes 21  
Market reports 21, 22  
Letters 18  
Diary 19

Wall Street 20  
Share prices 24  
Bank Base Rates Table 21  
Annual Statements: 22  
Goode Durrant & Murray 19  
Group 19

Prestige Group 21  
URAF 21  
Interim Statement: 22  
R. M. Douglas Holdings 22  
Prospectus: 22  
Rothschilds-Norridge AS 18

Bank bills 1.51  
Australia \$ 30.50  
Austria Sch 28.50  
Belgium Fr 62.00  
Canada \$ 1.63  
Denmark Kr 16.40  
Finland Mk 6.75  
France Fr 8.74  
Germany DM 4.26  
Greece Dr 65.00  
Hong Kong \$ 8.20  
Italy Lr 1570.00  
Japan Yn 205.00  
Netherlands Gld 4.44  
Norway Kr 9.30  
Portugal Esc 72.00  
Spain Ptas 121.75  
Sweden Kr 7.51  
Switzerland Fr 4.53  
US \$ 1.75  
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25

Gold rose \$3.00 an ounce to \$144.625.  
SILVER was 1.15706 on Wednesday, with 608.4-0.67355.  
Commodities: Metals prices were buoyant. Rubber index was at 1695.1 (previous 1686.4).  
Reports, pages 21 and 22

THE POUND  
Bank bills 1.51  
Australia \$ 30.50  
Austria Sch 28.50  
Belgium Fr 62.00  
Canada \$ 1.63  
Denmark Kr 16.40  
Finland Mk 6.75  
France Fr 8.74  
Germany DM 4.26  
Greece Dr 65.00  
Hong Kong \$ 8.20  
Italy Lr 1570.00  
Japan Yn 205.00  
Netherlands Gld 4.44  
Norway Kr 9.30  
Portugal Esc 72.00  
Spain Ptas 121.75  
Sweden Kr 7.51  
Switzerland Fr 4.53  
US \$ 1.75  
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25

Rate for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank (London) Ltd. Without rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

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It's the least you can do!



You'll both benefit.

It's the least you can do to get the best results from your employees. This isn't a charity advertisement. It's more of a sound business proposition which 28,000 employers have already discovered. By encouraging their employees to have a proper meal mid-day they are more than likely to have a proper day's work in return.

Employees like to feel looked after; they respond well. You know this and you can do something about it by giving Luncheon Vouchers. Not only can you compete for staff more easily, but you can keep staff more easily.

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TS/3

### Increase in overtime

By Our Economic Staff

Fresh evidence of the upturn in economic activity in the later months of last year is provided by new figures showing overtime working in October at its highest for nearly two years, and short-time working at its lowest for longer.

According to returns from a sample of employers, published in the latest Employment Gazette yesterday, the number of overtime hours worked in manufacturing industry in the week ended October 16 (the latest figures available) was 15.84 million—the highest since December 1974. Some 35.1 of all operatives were working an average 8.6 hours of overtime.



## Osram gives warning on cheap lamp imports

By Patricia Tisdall

A warning that it may be forced to stop producing vehicle lamps because of unfair competition from cheap imports has been made by Osram (GEC) to the Department of Industry.

In his correspondence with the department, Mr Patrick Samson, managing director of Osram—one of the biggest producers in the field—has said that the long-term future of GEC workers at two factories is at risk.

Philips, another large manufacturer of this type of lamp, shut its plant at Hamilton, Lanarkshire, last year.

If Osram carried out its threat the factory which would be most affected is at Team Valley, Gateshead, which employs about 300 workers.

Without the vehicle lamp capacity, it is doubtful whether this factory could continue to function economically. A further 150 jobs would be lost at Shaw, in Lancashire.

Managers at both factories have been told that the company, a GEC subsidiary, is making every effort to secure future employment.

Osram, like the rest of the industry, wants the Government to check the imports.

With two remaining large producers, Thorn and Crompton Parkinson, Osram accounts for about 80 per cent of total United Kingdom production of lamps used in vehicle headlights, side-lights, indicators, brake lights, etc.

The industry, in common with other automobile accessory producers, has suffered from declining overall sales in the past three years.

But it has simultaneously been hit by a sharp rise in imports from eastern block countries, particularly Hungary, as well as Hongkong and Taiwan, at prices which are a half to two-thirds of the cost of manufacturing in Britain.

Between 1972 and 1976, imports of motor vehicle lamps rose from about 16 million units to 45 million units.

Imports from Hungary alone have risen from about 12 million units in 1975 to more than 20 million last year.

Mr Brian Hill, president of the United Kingdom Lighting Industry Federation, said yesterday that if the present trends were allowed to continue, home sales would be overtaken by the volume of imports in 1980.

The federation has been trying for some time to make a case for anti-dumping legislation.

## Wages Inspectorate blitz shows 'alarming' underpayment of workers

By Melvyn Westlake

Widespread underpayment of workers has been exposed during a "low pay blitz" carried out around the country by the Wages Inspectorate last autumn.

The investigation which began in September and lasted about two months realized the "worst fears" of the Department of Employment. Announcing details in the latest *Employment Gazette*, published yesterday, the Department describes the results as "most alarming".

More than a quarter of employers visited by wages inspectors were paying workers less than they were entitled to in wages and holiday pay.

More than £76,000 was assessed as being owed to more than 1,650 people, and some prosecutions are under consideration.

Advance warning of the investigation was given by Mr John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, last September.

This followed earlier undertakings by the Minister in May to focus public attention on the problem of enforcing minimum-wage legislation and review the use of resources within the Wages Inspectorate.

In conducting the investigation one town was initially

Results of the "blitz" campaign, by Wages Council Trade

	EMPLOYERS Inspected	EMPLOYERS Under-paying	EMPLOYEES Examined	EMPLOYEES Under-paid	Amount under-paid £
Retail bread (E & W) ..	91	32	283	75	2,516.01
Retail bread (Scotland) ..	6	2	20	—	—
Bookbinding ..	42	21	294	59	1,205.48
Drapery and outfitting ..	471	150	1,715	295	11,922.28
Retail food (E & W) ..	536	125	1,715	234	14,263.97
Retail food (Scotland) ..	106	15	424	25	2,588.36
Furnishing and Allied ..	416	84	1,833	144	14,085.62
Newsagency and tobacco (E & W) ..	269	96	813	188	7,247.14
Newsagency and tobacco (Scotland) ..	59	12	195	30	2,317.52
Hairdressing ..	427	112	1,558	176	4,384.04
Licensed non-residential ..	319	70	1,870	171	6,218.02
Licensed restaurants ..	78	24	684	61	3,839.20
Unlicensed restaurants ..	124	58	580	196	5,315.63
Others ..	28	5	61	5	157.30
TOTAL ..	2,973	805	11,923	1,659	76,168.75

chosen at random in eight of the 16 Wages Inspectorate Divisions, with five or six inspectors visiting each town. By the end of November some 23 towns had been saturated.

The investigation was concentrated on the retail trades and catering, where underpayment was suspected to be most widespread.

Of 2,973 employers visited by the inspectors, some 805 were found to be paying less than the minimum wage laid

## Construction sector faces more jobless and 'permanent damage'

By Malcolm Brown

The Government was warned yesterday that the construction industry was sustaining permanent structural damage because of its present crisis, and that unemployment in the industry, already 200,000, might rise to around 300,000 if relief measures were not taken now.

The warning was given at the National Economic Development Council when Mr John Cuckney, chairman of the Economic Development Committee for Building, expressed extreme disappointment at the Government's response to the industry's plea for help. He was backed up by TUC and Confederation of British Industry representatives around the table.

Mr Cuckney was commenting on a paper circulated at the meeting by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, which constituted the Government's "considered response" to a plea put forward by the economic development committees for building and

civil engineering and by industrial and trade union leaders in a series of meetings in recent months.

Mr Shore's paper sympathised with the industry, but said that nothing could be done which would involve further public expenditure. The industry must sweat out the crisis.

Mr Cuckney told the council that the construction industry was now at crisis point. There were real grounds for thinking that if and when demand picked up again much of the capacity needed to meet that demand would simply not be there.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said that unemployment in the sector was now around 200,000, and that this figure might well reach 300,000. Concern was rising about the number of craftsmen leaving the industry and about the break-up of design teams.

The council was told that in many areas of building materials production, notably brick kilns and quarries, capa-



Mr John Cuckney: building industry is at crisis point.

city was being closed down and would not reopen.

TUC members on the council said that there must be further pressure to decentralise the whole industry.

Warner report, page 20

## Appeal to encourage small trader

By Derek Harris

Substantial changes were needed in government policy towards smaller-scale enterprises, said Mr David Howell, Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, speaking at a Conservative conference on *The Voice of Small Business* in London yesterday.

If Labour ministers were serious about industrial strategy they should put aside preoccupations with big-scale investment programmes, rationalising and nationalising, and concentrate instead on policy changes which would help small business to start up, survive and prosper.

Mr Howell pointed out that the world's best performing and fastest growing economies tended to be those with the largest numbers of small businesses. Japan and West Germany were instances of this.

He went on: "The industrial structure we need to meet tomorrow's marketing challenges must be highly flexible and capable of rapid responses and new processes and products. The giant industrial concerns of the past are not the best suited to the new challenges."

"When it comes to jobs, far the best prospect is going to be at the smaller end of business and commerce—if any of these are given half a chance under socialism."

A key priority was to cut the preposterously high rates of tax on both income and capital. Parts of the Employment Protection Act were deeply hostile to small business needs.

Simplified procedures were required both from the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise to help with the problems set by the demands for returns, forms and statistics.

Mr Terry Beckett, Ford chairman and managing director, told the committee that the company had been involved in discussions with BSC over quality and volume requirements and had offered a potential £20m worth of business.

BSC had not been able to measure up to the standards required.

Price undertakings had been given in negotiations with five countries—Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania—while in the case of Bulgaria price increases already being introduced were sufficiently high to make it unnecessary to pursue the case any further.

The Trade Secretary told the committee that the price of the imported suits would be reviewed from time to time and he said that he was not pursuing allegations concerning the import of boys' suits since the quantities involved were relatively small.

He emphasized that if the industry considered that these products posed a big threat in the future then the Government would be prepared to investigate the matter again.

The investigation had been unusually complex, requiring analysis of a wide range of garments and had been time consuming.

No details were given of the agreements on the level of price increases and the effect on retail prices will be determined by the amount of "mark up" levied by retailers.

However, industry sources indicated that the present cheap suit, priced at £13.50, would be increased to £13.50 from April 1 and would be raised again to £14.50 from July 1.

The news was welcomed by the clothing industry and by the wool textile industry last night. Mr Richard Camm, chairman of the Clothing Manufacturers' Federation, said that the flood of cheap imports had posed a real and serious threat to the livelihoods of 300,000 workers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tax pressure on partnerships

From Mr J. C. Warden

Sir, It has been said before and must be repeated as often as space is permitted, that small businesses and especially service partnerships such as patent agents and solicitors are being forced into a condition of financial jeopardy by the present level of taxation and its system of administration. Unless remedial measures are taken, the next twelve months may be critical since at present we are permitted to exist only under the sufferance of increasing bank overdrafts.

The most depressing factor is the condition of complete impotence to remedy the situation, even when there is plenty of work to do. Inflation immediately increases the capital requirement due to the time lag in receiving payment of fees and disbursements. The last Patent Office fee increases, for example, increased immediately the capital requirement of my firm to the extent of the existing permitted overdraft, and that is only one small factor.

It is not possible merely by increasing productivity to alleviate the situation, since the lion's share of the profits is milked off in taxation. One can exert pressure upon clients to pay faster, but only at the risk of upsetting long-standing relationships, and the pressure is merely shifted to another party who may be in a similar predicament. Also, once the gap is closed to the minimum, no further relief is possible.

Enormous amounts of time and money are spent examining tax avoidance schemes suggested by accountants and tax specialists, which turn out to be of doubtful validity and are quite beyond a small firm's accounting resources—already stretched by government regulations such as VAT—to administer. To force the adoption of such schemes cannot be in the public interest. Inevitably one reduces staff and personal drawings, knowing all the time that such measures are having little or no impact upon the situation.

What we must have is the ability to set aside a reasonable proportion of earnings as capital—free of taxation. A mere reduction of personal taxation—much though it is needed—will not do. It is surely not too much to ask for

a firm to be allowed to provide for itself out of its profits sufficient capital to keep it alive.

If this is not done the total tax collected will drop, with associated suffering to partners and employees. Unless the cow is maintained healthy it will give no milk. The sufferer in the end is the farmer—in this case the Government.

Yours faithfully,  
J. C. WARDEN,  
Peaslake,  
Surrey,  
February 28.

From Mr J. E. M. Stewart-Smith

Sir, The attack on individually owned private businesses in this country prompts me to write to tell your readers about a series of three-week courses for the owners or chief executives of such businesses run by the Harvard Business School in the United States called *The Smaller Company Management Programme*.

This is a series of three courses, each of three weeks (because it is thought that people will not want to be away from their business for longer at one time) and is the most popular single course run by the business school.

In the first three weeks you are, as it were, raised up on a platform to see the overall picture of your business, its strengths, its problems and personalities, in the second three weeks you work at problems in greater depth and the third course ties it all together with a lot of attention to family relationships in business, succession and taxation.

I cannot find any equivalent course in England for the entrepreneur and after completing two of the three sessions I am certain that going through the best business decision have ever made. It would be useful too for people in larger businesses, such as banks, who work with small business.

If any of your readers would like to know more about the course I should be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL STEWART-SMITH,  
Managing Director,  
Taylor of London Limited,  
166 Sloane Street,  
London, SW1.  
February 25.

### Tourism—a growth industry

From Mr W. Adkins

Sir, Anthony Grant, in your issue of the February 19, has done a special service in indicating so clearly the tourism position in Britain and its importance to us all. This country is second to none in its reputation of hospitality and the way it receives its guests. It is therefore all the more surprising that in this consumer protection era, there is adopted by some such an anti-tourist attitude and thereby such an indifferent attitude to our consumers, the tourists, be they from home or overseas. Some would advocate "soaking" them by extra taxation and by various restrictions amounting almost to an attitude of "don't come".

All this is against the background of a prosperous tourist industry, a growth industry almost unique in Britain at the moment and which is likely to contribute an ever increasing major addition to our balance of payments and to the overall balance on tourism account.

Of course, there will be certain difficulties and inconveniences along the road but these are not insurmountable. If we get together with government, local authorities, transport interests and the hotel and catering industry in order to minimize these defects in the interests of those who genuinely complain. The overseas visitor might be acceptable to those that are overgrown who seem to want to curtail one of the few ways in which our prosperity can be helped along an extremely difficult road.

Yours, Sir, can make a major contribution to persuading those well disposed towards tourism to come together in the interests of local residents, the consumer (the tourist) and the industry, together with government, in order to provide a base which will help prevent a reputation which regrettably, we are fast obtaining abroad, of being indifferent to the contribution which an ever growing tourist industry can provide.

Yours faithfully,  
W. ADKINS,  
Chairman,  
Tourism Development Committee,  
The British Hotels Restaurants and Caterers Association,  
13 Cork Street, London.

### Assessment of surrender values

From Mr T. Whitley

Sir, The letter of February 19 from Mr Sharman and Macdonald dealing with your leader of February 12, "A poor deal from the life office", and referring to the article "Read for a new look at surrender values" of the same day, good though that is, in my opinion is not trenchant enough.

We must remember that the money that is being dealt with is subscribed wholly by the policyholders to provide for the following purposes in the order set out:

1. To pay the cost of running the society/company which gives the service.

2. To pay out to the beneficiaries the sums and bonuses due to them on the death of the assured before the endowment assurance policy reaches full term.

The first three purposes are contractual, the fourth is, in general, not.

It should be remembered that when deciding to take out a policy, the assured expects that the current bonus rate will continue throughout the life of the policy (and may rise), and anything other than an unforeseen catastrophe (eg, the death toll of the 1914/1918 War), which causes bonuses to decrease, is to be resisted.

To summarise, endowment assurance policyholders are in effect contracted, not with the society/company issuing the policies, but with each other:

3. To pay out the assured sums plus bonuses to the policy holders who live to full term, and

4. To pay out equitably to those who surrender their policies before full term.

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## Ford and Leyland attack BSC failure to meet orders

By Peter Hill

Ford and British Leyland yesterday attacked British Steel Corporation for failing to meet their requirements, making them step up purchases of steel from foreign producers.

Chief executives from both companies appeared before an all-party committee of MPs investigating the affairs of the state steel undertaking, and although both groups acknowledged that BSC attitudes towards the difficulties had shown a welcome change, they still had reservations.

In a detailed memorandum to the sub-committee of the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries, the strike-torn Brit-

ish Leyland said that in the 12 months to the end of September last year only one third of the steel orders placed by the company from BSC had been delivered on time.

Since 1971, said the company, sheet steel bought from the corporation had fallen from 80 per cent to 63 per cent of requirements, while its imports had risen from 12 per cent to 25 per cent—due to the inability of BSC to meet requirements in full because of labour disputes or technical problems.

But the company said it intended to reduce imports this year, and BSC had accepted that it was for them to reestablish confidence in their ability to

supply and meet requirements. Action already being taken would go a long way towards achieving this, but it was premature to believe that the corporation had turned the corner.

Leyland was especially critical of the corporation's price movements. Over the past three years BSC basic prices for sheet steel had risen by 100 per cent, and the rapid and frequent rises in price had eroded Leyland's competitive position and led to administrative difficulties.

In its evidence to the committee, Ford said that before 1975 it had placed 80 to 85 per cent of its business for cold

rolled steel products with BSC. But purchases from BSC had fallen to 55 per cent of requirements because of its inability to meet schedules for the motor company's quality requirements. Efforts were being made to raise BSC's proportion, with a target of 60 per cent this year.

Mr Terry Beckett, Ford chairman and managing director, told the committee that the company had been involved in discussions with BSC over quality and volume requirements and had offered a potential £20m worth of business.

BSC had not been able to measure up to the standards required.

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(Incorporated under the Lov om Aksjeselskaper 1957 of the Kingdom of Norway)

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Particulars of the Bonds and of Norpipe a.s. are available in the Extel Statistical Service and may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 17th March, 1977, from the Brokers to the Issue:—

**Cazenove & Co.,**  
12 Tokenhouse Yard, London,  
EC2R 7AN

3rd March, 1977

## Goode Durrant & Murray Group Limited

Extracts from Mr Lionel Robinson's statement

Earnings in the second half showed an improvement as forecast. Pre-tax profit was £457,000, and the board recommends an unchanged dividend of 15.75%.

The property market, which has had a material effect on our profit over the past years, is still uncertain. We have felt it prudent to change our accounting policy on property development loans and bring into income only interest which has been received. Our property loan balances stood at £3,925 million excluding all unpaid interest compared with £12.8 million at peak in 1974. This reduction is continuing and as these advances are repaid future profits

will benefit from interest received. We achieved our objective to keep a positive cash flow and our net borrowings stand now at £19.4 million from a peak of £33.8 million in 1974, a ratio to shareholders funds of only 1.4:1; therein lies our strength for the future. There is a marked fall in bad debt provisions in our instalment credits subsidiary United Kingdom Guarantee Corporation. For the last six months our normal prudent provisions have proved to be more than adequate.

Our overseas subsidiaries again showed their value and both Kirkcaldie & Stains in New Zealand and our Southern African interests



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Why Smith Brothers was turned down

The Stock Exchange Council's rejection of Smith Brothers' request to deal with market makers in South African stocks on their own terms is a temporary irritation to the jobbers. But it highlights a problem which members of the Exchange's Council have been considering in committee since last October.

In essence, the SE has to reconcile its members' need to seek out business where they can find it, with the need to maintain the basic self-regulatory discipline of the SE's market — that of keeping separate the roles of principal and agent. Smith Brothers' proposal would, in the council's view, have breached this discipline.

The Council's soul searching stems from the volume of international business now transacted outside its market. It is clearly in the market's interest to increase capacity as far as possible, and so attempts to draw international business within the SE framework have produced ideas for forms of associate membership or an extension of SE regulations to a tertiary market.

But such schemes run into a series of problems. Why should international dealers voluntarily participate? A would not be able to enforce discipline on a tertiary market. How would the council reconcile the duality of the role of jobber and broker and the duality of principal and agent common among international dealers with its own regulations dividing these roles?

The SE's dilemma is simplified by the fact that markets follow their clients, and since the introduction of tighter foreign exchange regulations the domestic market for international stocks has been in decline. Rather than trying to expand the SE to encompass these changing markets, the council could merely alter its commission rules and thereby increase its members' competitive ability to deal with international markets outside the SE trading floor.

Deals carried out on the floor give the SE its authority, and increasing the volume of these deals would increase that authority. But to increase volume at the expense of the market's self-regulatory principles at this formative stage of SE thinking would be to over-value and at the same time to dilute the very authority the SE wishes to extend.

### Tricentrol/Ashmole

#### A rights by another name

Tricentrol's bid for Ashmole Investment Trust, which has been accepted by holders of 52.3 per cent of the equity, is an exercise in opportunism which provides Tricentrol with cash (approximately £2.4m), Ashmole's major shareholders with a long-term exit at a negligible discount, and investors in general with very little reason to suppose that the investment trust industry is due for more excitement.

With Tricentrol at 138p last night the bid — 57p for the 200 Ashmole shares — is a net asset (almost exclusively cash) attributable to Ashmole's shareholders, following the property and securities sales of the past few months.

Tricentrol's object is to step up its share dividend to 10p, in the final quarter of 1977, of some of the Thistle

field proceeds — which are, in any case, earmarked for the repayment of the government loans obtained to finance the exploration and development of its own share in the field. Tricentrol is continuing its exploration in the meantime, drilling another well in the north-east corner of the block in which the group is raising cash to help finance that exercise. Can be taken as an indication of the hopes which have been raised so far.

As for the investment trust sector, further excitement there must probably wait on the issue of the British Rail Pension Fund's offer of Standard Trust — expected on Friday.

### Williams Hudson

#### Spitting in the wind

The 25p a share bid for Williams Hudson by Mr David Rowland's Argos Group expires, subject to extension, tomorrow, and the case of the dissident minority shareholders, who are unlikely to muster more than 3 or 4 per cent, looks like a lost one. Through vigorous buying Argos's original 46 per cent stake has been lifted to more like 70 per cent. So most shareholders seem content to get out.

My own view has been that shareholders should accept the 25p. But this has merely acknowledged the dismal alternative prospects. This sorry saga is, in fact, worth much wider consideration. It encapsulates many of the reasons why small shareholders are forsaking the stock market. It is a classic story of how powerless they can be in the face of a dominant and determined shareholder and how little, ultimately, the Stock Exchange can do to protect them.

The company's record since Mr Rowland took effective control in 1971 includes the purchase and subsequent writing off of Venereux, the buying of a stake in Vickers, later sold at an estimated £3m loss; and a net loss of £2.1m in 1974/75 followed by one of £4.1m the next year. Despite this dismal performance Mr Rowland consolidated his position by taking over the chairmanship in 1975 and last year tried to launch a rights issue on shareholders who had seen their shares plummet from a 212p high to only 20p.

Strong opposition forced him to drop that issue but he has now made a bid with the blunt intention of persuading shareholders that if they do not accept their share listing might be suspended and a rights issue will follow. He further says there is little prospect of a dividend in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the company has net worth of at least 67p and probably more like 80p.

Mr Rowland is not noted for his altruism and shareholders may reasonably feel he is holding a pistol to their heads. He says it is his intention to run the business, but it is open to him to change his mind and sell it off at asset value and he would no longer have to explain his actions to anyone. The message for shareholders is obvious enough, but the fact that Mr Rowland has broken no rules suggests the real cause for soul searching should be within the City, or failing that, the Department of Trade.

Herbert Morris

### Under siege

While Herbert Morris clings on to slim hopes of the Government reversing its controversial

decision on the Babcock & Wilcox bid — there was a meeting from the company, union officials and the Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection yesterday — the company now recognizes that without such a change of heart it cannot stay independent whatever the outcome of the Babcock bid.

If Babcock's bid fails it will only be because Morris has gone elsewhere. Indeed, the rejection of the revised Babcock offer was accompanied by a declaration from the board that "the interests of shareholders and employees would best be served if Morris were to join another large and compatible group on fair terms. Interest has already been expressed by other companies and the board will now be pursuing these possibilities."

Finding another bidder will not be easy. Babcock has 39.24 per cent of the Morris equity, while the board, family and Morris Pension Fund can only muster 26.57 per cent between them. Institutions would best be nearly 18 per cent and small shareholders make up the balance of a little over 16 per cent.

Clearly, Babcock's revised offer of 148p cash (against a Morris share price of 173p) is another sighting shot, offers Morris shareholders an exit p/e of 4.34, and looks like another shooting shot.

The Morris accounts are expected early next week, and should show net worth of above 200p a share. Hold on.

L. Gardner

### A 'recovery' dividend

The knowledge that Rolls-Royce Motors is waiting in the wings may have provided the main impetus behind L. Gardner's share price performance over the last few months. But latest results and current prospects are also providing a significant prop at the present level.

After three years in the doldrums the group staged a powerful recovery last year raising its diesel engine output by some 700 units to 4,500 and Gardner is confident of a similar increase in the current year.

With demand for truck engines proving particularly strong, Gardner was able to more than double first half profit margins to 12.5 per cent in the second six months with the result that profits leapt to £1.1m in the latter period.

Having bought just under 17 per cent of Gardner's equity early last year Rolls-Royce was disappointed some holders by failing to follow-through with a full bid or even talks on closer cooperation, although relationships between the two boards are fairly close.

The feeling in the trade, however, is that Rolls would dearly like to have Gardner's expertise particularly in smaller diesel engines and that a takeover approach must come eventually. But any move could be delayed until the Government's strategy in the diesel engine industry is clearer.

Gardner's shares closed 6p higher at 170p where the p/e ratio is just over 9 which should fall at least two points this year. And with a 38 per cent boost in the dividend payment secured on recovery grounds the yield is 8 1/2 per cent. Final: 1976/1975 Capitalization £7.35m Sales £17.6m (£12.7m) Pre-tax profits £1.64m

Earnings per share 18.49p (9.13p) Dividend gross 10.63p (7.69p)

## Industrial strategy 6: Rubber processing

### Hoping for the rebound

Rubber processing in Britain, and largely that means the production of tyres and other bits and pieces for the vehicle industry, has experienced a sad decline in the past 15 years with its share of world trade tumbling alarmingly.

In 1961, products from United Kingdom rubber processing factories accounted for 22 per cent of the value of world exports of these goods but by 1973 the figure had slumped to 8 per cent. In contrast, West Germany's share over the same period rose from 11 per cent to 17 per cent.

The industry's weak position in world terms was rightly the starting point for the deliberations of the rubber processing sector working party under the aegis of the National Economic Development Office which is now looking for ways in which overseas penetration can be increased.

The halting of the downward slide in the world market share is crucial if the processors are to avoid a further contraction, a trend that has been aggravated by steadily rising imports. At the beginning of the 1970s, about one in every 11 car and van tyres sold in the United Kingdom was of foreign origin but by 1975 this had risen to about one in six. Similarly, 7 per cent of rubber gloves bought in 1970 were imported increasing to 20 per cent five years later.

Unfortunately for the rubber processors, many of the courses of action that could lead to a more dynamic growth rate in home and overseas trade are beyond their control. A large part of the industry's sales abroad is in the form of components to other domestic industries while at home the industry is particularly prone to the vagaries of the motor vehicle market and to the buying policies of the car companies.

The working party, in its first report last July, stressed that as a result of those buying

policies, profits on original equipment sales were low and most companies had maintained that sales provided little more than break-even results.

This has been made worse in recent years by the practice of some overseas manufacturers of dumping rubber products, particularly tyres and industrial hose, on the United Kingdom market. The effect on prices and the profitability of the domestic companies has been serious and the working party expressed the rather forlorn hope that the government would change anti-dumping procedures so that the onus was on source countries to prove they were not dumping instead of the practice requiring United Kingdom producers to provide proof.

In reply, Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, simply said that such a switch would need a change in international agreements. He thought the interests of industry were best served through existing legislation and through the close cooperation between the Department of Trade and Customs and Excise. Because of their great dependence on the motor industry, the rubber processors have also pressed for a much more detailed flow of information from the car companies about market forecasts, investment plans, future model policy and so on and are seeking guidance from the government's motor industry tripartite group.

It is clear, however, that in the highly competitive world of car making, companies are reluctant to talk in other than broad terms. It also seems unlikely that the sector working party will be able to pry any more commercial information from the car makers than that already provided by the customers of big companies like DaimlerChrysler.

Consequently, the future strategy for the tyre industry in Britain has to be based on flexibility to react to changing

circumstances in the car market.

Tyre making in the United Kingdom is already in the hands of a few companies and there is little scope for further integration. Rubber processing in Britain employs about 120,000 people at 500 establishments but over three quarters of them employ less than 200 and provide less than 11 per cent of total employment.

The top 10 per cent of employers account for 74 per cent of employment and 75 per cent of the industry's sales is to the vehicle industry including 45 per cent for tyres.

The sector working party believes that although overall profitability of the industry did not deteriorate significantly between 1973 and 1976, cash flow has been inadequate to provide the reinvestment rate of return necessary to maintain the viability of United Kingdom plants in world trade competition.

Apart from the motor industry problems that have affected the rubber processors' profit record, another constraint that has caused concern is the absence in the United Kingdom of a manufacturer of resorcinol, an important raw material in tyres.

The strategic implications of being dependent upon a foreign supplier are clear but although the tyre makers have been urging the chemical industry for some years to build a resorcinol plant at home, none has yet been convinced that such a development would provide the necessary return.

Another and vital aspect of the industry, affecting both the tyre and general rubber goods producers, which will need careful study before the formulation of an overall strategy is the improvement of productivity.

There have already been substantial redundancies in the rubber industry and in many sectors there is an urgent need to replace outdated equipment to ensure future competitiveness.

Edward Townsend

Ronald Faux

## Brighter weather offshore

Mr Alan Blackshaw has recently taken over as director-general of the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow at a propitious time in the growth of the North Sea oil business.

The British oil platform yards are now established, well equipped and competing more effectively in the world market. The share of the £1,000m North Sea spin-off captured by British engineers and suppliers after an unpromising start is growing and the number of jobs generated in Scotland, about 55,000, is a healthy impetus to the North-east.

After two years in which no orders were placed in the British yards, much to the embarrassment of the supplies office, the first order for a new North Sea platform has been announced by Chevron Petroleum for Highland Fabricators at Nigg. Other orders are likely and Britain is now in a position to compete for any size or shape of platform in any kind of material.

Alongside the oil industry is a cheerful spot in an otherwise gloomy picture.

For a civil servant the directorship of the offshore supplies office is an unusually informal job, since the oil industry is generally everything the Civil Service is deemed not to be — brash, impulsive, fast-moving and crudely dismissive of the kind of departmental ceremonies for which Whitehall has a reputation.

They don't want to spend time talking to people unproductively and they are shy of

government. Perhaps they hardly see us now as government but as recognizable in our own right and not associated with the normal run of state involvement", Mr Blackshaw said.

He is a stocky, quiet-mannered man who, when he is not acting as broker on behalf of the taxpayer between oilmen and industrialists, is devoted to mountaineering. He is a former president of the British Mountaineering Council — an organization which he quietly revolutionized — and author of the definitive textbook on mountaineering.

The Government's efforts to win a larger share of the oil business still receive a steady barrage of criticism but Mr Blackshaw bases an optimistic view on a few positive signs. When it is discovered that the North Sea has significant oil fields, Britain's manufacturing industry had had little experience of the oil industry. Inevitably the country scrambled behind the rapid pace of development by other oil companies and by a British economy badly in need of the scale of transfusion which oil has been able to give.

Inflation and the high cost of producing oil from the North Sea forced a pause in order for new platforms which confounded the supplies office and left some expensive holes in the Scottish earth gloomily vacant.

"This has always been difficult to predict but I think that we are now coming to some four or five steel and concrete platforms will be ordered in the next 18 months. In fact, the

Chevron order was not one of these and ranked among the less likely to materialize. These would be for the home market, but overseas development is also promising", Mr Blackshaw said.

In particular, the order secured by the McDermott yard at Ardesier to build an offshore rig for Brazil and the agreement between Constructors John Brown, Offshore and Petrobras Brasileiro to provide technical assistance and technology support were encouraging signs that Britain was making headway in the shark pool of international competition. The Middle East also offered greater scope for British involvement in offshore work, adding to the strong civil engineering and petroleum development activity already there.

Last year's dearth of orders and uncertainty, Mr Blackshaw pointed out, was not confined to the North Sea but had been worldwide. There had been doubt about the potential benefit of the reserves, but the tide was changing. A number of companies were now keen to press ahead with developments.

Once technical analyses had been completed, and after the latest round of licensing, Mr Blackshaw forecast another burst of enthusiasm for the North Sea. His other important aim would be to encourage British companies which had already developed a North Sea expertise to project themselves internationally into the offshore market.

As engineering moved into deeper and more difficult waters the developing technology must also be helped by government and he saw closer collaboration particularly between Britain and Norway, in joint ventures into third market export areas.

Two years at the Offshore Supplies Office as deputy director had convinced Blackshaw that, although the North Sea was a difficult place from which to produce oil, the experience and ability which Britain had developed and from which even the Americans had learnt, would in future be a valuable and marketable resource.

## The spring will be sprung

Sooner or later every incomes policy founders upon its own absurdities, usually in the second or third year of its currency. If the present British Leyland dispute does not turn out to be for Mr Hesley what the miners' dispute was for Mr Heath three years ago, then beyond a shadow of a doubt something else will.

In neither case could the claim being made be represented as an example of a powerful monopoly trade union trying to extract for its members more than the economic value of their labour, which is the general case for every collective bargaining remedy which incomes policies were invented.

In both cases the difficulty arises because payments which would be perfectly economically and commercially justifiable conflict with the rules of an incomes policy whose general effectiveness depends on no exceptions being seen to be made.

It is, moreover, a total delusion to suppose that the problem is merely one of timing, that if only the Leyland tool-room workers would wait until a more flexible adjustment in relative pay could be made consistently with the general fabric of an incomes policy. One man's differential is another man's anomaly.

There is no internally consistent pattern of pay adjustments which would satisfy simultaneously all or even the bulk of the customary and desired relationships between the rewards of each group. The simultaneous equations A is greater than B, B is greater than C, and C is the same as A just will not solve.

The problem goes deeper. The aim of any incomes policy is to influence the behaviour of an average (the trend of average money earnings) while allowing market forces to operate of pure supply and demand for labour or of relative bargaining strength, to determine the components of the average (the pay of each group). Yet in the nature of any incomes policy, which is a form of administrative intervention in market bargaining, it can only influence the average by operating directly on the components.

One might as well seek by direct controls to determine the average taken by runners in a marathon race without affecting their relative performance. Nor is it easy to devise in the labour market any practical analogue to such indirect methods as making the runners all carry weights or all run at wireless altitudes.

There is, of course, nature's remedy: if the government creates enough spending power to validate the general increase

Politics requires that there be a visible phase three and that it be not generally disregarded. Economics requires that there be a large readjustment of pay relativities without an excessive growth in average monetary earnings.

in monetary rewards, then prices simply rise to reduce the gain in real rewards to what the economic facts of life make possible, while relativities are freely determined.

If the government increases spending power only in line with the rate of the potential growth in the real output, then unemployment rises until excessive pay settlements are on average deterred; and relativities are still freely determined.

But that is precisely the dilemma — accelerating inflation or high unemployment — which incomes policies were invented to solve. There are also ingenious mechanisms, such as the Ekan plan devised by a New Zealand economist of that name, which use the nature's remedies through the tax system.

But they leave undiminished the incentive to individual groups of workers to exercise their bargaining power to the maximum and lead in the end to absurd results which are extremely difficult to unravel.

Yet, the Chancellor still faces the problems, both political and economic, of a potential pay explosion in the autumn if open season is declared from next August or if the formula for the next phase is widely ignored.

Politically, there is little attraction for the government in a free-for-all or in an ineffective policy, since the electoral argument that the Tories cannot cope with the trade unions would be much weakened by a demonstration that Labour could not either.

Economically, a strong upward pressure on pay, whether it was absorbed by a sharp rise in unemployment or by a reacceleration of inflation, would obliterate the Chancellor's strategy over the last two years of bringing down inflation while nurturing a revival of manufacturing output.

Investment and general employment by making British labour costs internationally competitive.

Even if he could generate extremely modest inflationary expectations by persuading people to concentrate on the real influences on the retail

price index from this spring onwards rather than on the crude popular percentage increase over the past 12 months, it would still be most unlikely that people would be dissuaded from trying to make good what they believe they have lost since the 1974/75 pay round.

The option of a big income tax reduction looks less and less efficacious. To make a real impact something over £2,000m would have to be added to the budget deficit; and even on the Treasury's latest, short-term forecasts there does not look like being much more above £1,000m of room within the £8,700m ceiling pledged to the International Monetary Fund.

Secondly, there is now no prospect of securing a *quid pro quo* from the TUC before the budget at the end of this month. Thirdly and most importantly, even if the TUC would commit itself to a realistic norm for phase three in return for limited cuts, this would not solve the fundamental problems of reconciling effective control of the average with flexibility for the components discussed above.

For a general cut in income tax does not make the largest possible increase in gross pay any less desirable for each group of workers. Indeed, in strict cash terms it makes it more desirable.

So, certain conclusions emerge. Politics requires that there be a visible phase three and that it be not generally disregarded. Economics requires that there be a large readjustment of pay relativities without an excessive growth in average monetary earnings.

The only known mechanism under conditions of collective bargaining for reconciling moderate average growth in earnings with market-determined relative rewards is a free-for-all with a tight fiscal and monetary policy. The counterpart to this in the public sector is tight cash limits in individual expenditure programmes within which the various spending agencies are free to make what compromise between pay increases and real improvements in public services they can.

It follows that the right phase three is one which provides the highest and most flexible possible formal ceiling (thereby making it so far as possible beyond the reach of the clearest possible indication that every penny up to that ceiling is going to have to be negotiated under conditions of severe financial stringency for both public and private employers).

This will almost certainly mean a bad year for industrial relations and a dire tendency for people, whether through miscalculation or imperviousness to the facts of life, to price themselves out of their jobs.

But that is better than a bad year for parliamentary democracy, which would be the consequence of trying to enforce the unworkable.

Moreover, the problem of entry into the normal market bargaining cannot be solved by indefinite postponement any more than pressing indefinitely down on a spring can have any effect other than to increase its eventual recoil.

Peter Jay  
Economics Editor

## Business Diary: Home truths • Fact and FABLE

The officers of the Catholic Building Society may bank upon enjoying their just rewards in another place but at the moment they appear to be having a little on account here and now.

Assets have more than doubled (to £2.6m) in the last four years higher than the building society movement average, and are expected to go up by about a third this year.

The 1976 financial statement, just released, shows that the CBS was able to loan a third more than in 1975, that four in ten of the loans went to people earning £3,000 a year or less and that six in ten went to first-time buyers.

This compares with a movement average of less than two and less than five in ten respectively.

Francis Higgins, the CBS's managing director, told Business Diary yesterday that three-quarters of the society's loans are to Catholics.

The CBS is one of the smallest and newest of the building societies, established by Catholic laity in 1960. At this time, he says, building societies were discriminating against Catholics. This was not on religious grounds as such, but because there were many Catholics with small incomes and large families living in city centres and interested in older property — which comes down to pretty much the same thing.

The CBS, Higgins says, can discriminate just as legally for Catholics as the longer established societies could discriminate against them. This is because the proportion of loans to co-religionists is the same as

the proportion of applications from them.

Many of the poorer applicants have been helped with option mortgages, and the loyalty of depositors has been such that the CBS has been able to make loans of up to 95 per cent at a time when other societies have been advancing 70 per cent or less.

Helping minority groups is good business says Higgins — himself a Catholic — and he says it would probably pay the bigger, longer-established groups to be more socially aware.

Stand by

Prince Wladyslaw Potryna, a Pole in the exhibition business, was to be seen at a London hotel yesterday lunching "already committed potential participants" in a venture called FABLE.

This is short for Floating Arab-British Luxury Expedition, under which it is proposed to send a board of British salespeople and their wares on a two and a half month cruise around Gulf ports.

The boat, a 10,000-ton French vessel, was to have left this month but will now not start before November — if then. Should bookings not pick up, the project may have to be renamed FABLE or Floating Arab-French and British Expedition, for plans do exist to sell space in France.

Guests at yesterday's lunch were addressed by the prince, and then exhorted by John Warburton, head of the overseas directorate of the CBI, David Bissett, of the De-

partment of Trade's Middle East division, and Bryan Brisby, the retired resident director of the Cyprus Popular Bank in Nicosia.

Brisby has been brought back out of retirement by the British Bank of the Middle East to preside over banking operations aboard ship, and to liaise with branches at the ports of call.

BBME is not backing the project financially, the organizers say, but they suggest that Arab interests are or may.

There will be 120 "stands" aboard the boat, half for industrial firms and half for retailers, costing between £10,000 and £12,500.

Glorian, the prince's company, has firm bookings for between six and 25 stands so far, depending upon which of the representatives one speaks to.

John Klue, one of the Glorian team who inclines to the lower number, said yesterday they need to sell about two thirds of the stands before the cruise is on.

He would like to reach that figure by the end of May when Glorian will have to confirm its charter of the boat. If British bookings are thin, the company will look to the French. Klue declined to name those who had signed on for the cruise.

Recruiting

Judith Hudson has good reason to be pleased today — business is picking up and she became a director of the firm that is picking up some of the business.

Ms Hudson, creative director of Charles Barker Recruitment, has gone on to the board and



Photograph by Warren Harrison  
Just the Job: Judith Hudson of Charles Barker Recruitment yesterday.

is now as far as she knows the only woman director of a recruitment advertising agency.

She told Business Diary yesterday: "For the first time in a year or 18 months recruitment is beginning to pick up a bit, particularly in professional and higher-level jobs."

Clients of firms such as her own were perhaps thinking after a year of cutting down on everything that they did need top quality people in the higher-rung jobs.

One of Ms Hudson's jobs this week has been a first stint as a judge of the Newspaper Society's awards for newspaper advertising designed by newspapers themselves rather than by agencies.

"I was very impressed by the standard of the black and white ads, but not very impressed, strange enough, by the colour advertisements", she said.

The awards won't be announced until April, although Ms Hudson was able to say the standard was high enough for them to be made in all the categories.

A test case

The National Union of Bank Employees found little sympathy from bank management when it suggested a clause about the extent to which bank employees should keep quiet about those aspects of customers' affairs likely to be of interest to HM Inland Revenue.

Local directors of Barclays Bank are now asking for names of managers willing to be guinea pigs in a test case before the courts over the Revenue's claim for a slice of payments of up to £4,800 made by the bank to managers to help them through the house price boom of the early 1970s.

The money went to employees who sold houses cheap before the soft mortgages to which bank staff have become accustomed. Maybe that's why so many were to be seen lurking in cupboards.

Jargon corner: a speaker at a business function told his audience yesterday: "Over my dead body will there be any deficiency."



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## MARKET REPORTS

## Demand pushes metal prices up

Renewed buying enthusiasm developed for all base metals and silver yesterday and resulted in generally higher prices on the London Metal Exchange.

Copper cash wire bars gained 10.75 and three months went 10.50 ahead. Advances stemmed from short covering and fresh buying induced by the trend at New York and the continued strength of gold.

Tin shivered 9.00 for cash and 8.50 for three months. Dealers said that although lacking a lead from the East, with Penang closed, prices displayed renewed firmness but higher levels attracted profit taking and values receded. Offerings were generally well absorbed despite the quietness of fresh outside demand.

Lead rose by 15.00 for cash and 15.50 for three months. Dealers said that the movement reflected current sentiment in base metals and gold with a report of partial force majeure on Asarco's April shipments, due to exhaustion of inventories and a protracted strike at its Glover, Missouri, plant.

Zinc gained 45 for cash and 52.50 for three months in sympathy with the general trend. The forward position touched 54.00 then fell back on the emergence of profit taking and hedge selling.

Silver registered gains of between 4p and 4.50p in the ring. American cash wire bars rose 4.00 to 150.00, three months 3.50 to 146.50, six months 3.00 to 143.00, nine months 2.50 to 139.50, and twelve months 2.00 to 136.00. London cash wire bars rose 4.00 to 150.00, three months 3.50 to 146.50, six months 3.00 to 143.00, nine months 2.50 to 139.50, and twelve months 2.00 to 136.00. The London Metal Exchange said that the movement reflected current sentiment in base metals and gold with a report of partial force majeure on Asarco's April shipments, due to exhaustion of inventories and a protracted strike at its Glover, Missouri, plant.

## Commodities

Cash, 200-240, three months, 240-260, six months, 260-280, nine months, 280-300, twelve months, 300-320. The London Metal Exchange said that the movement reflected current sentiment in base metals and gold with a report of partial force majeure on Asarco's April shipments, due to exhaustion of inventories and a protracted strike at its Glover, Missouri, plant.

## Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

	Bid	Offer	
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Jan 1988	102 1/2	102 1/2	American Exec 3 1/2
Feb 1988	102 1/2	102 1/2	Bank of America 3 1/2
Mar 1988	102 1/2	102 1/2	Barclays Food 3 1/2
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Jan 2007	102		

## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	11 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	11 1/2%
First London Secs	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Midland Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Rossminster Acc's	11 1/2%
Shenley Trust	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	11 1/2%

## M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE &amp; CO. LIMITED

Year	Low	Company	Last Price	Ch/g	Div (Y/P)	Yld %	P/E
35	27	Airsprung Ord	35	—	4.2	12.1	6.9
117	100	Airsprung 181% CULS	17	—	18.5	15.8	—
32	35	Armstrong & Rhodes	28	—	3.0	10.7	—
132	104	Debrahn	98	—	8.4	16.4	4.9
122	104	Debrahn 171% CULS	108	—	1.5	16.2	—
62	45	Henry Sykes	49	—	2.2	4.5	5.7
81	55	James Burrough	81	—	6.0	7.4	12.9
233	188	Robert Jenkins	219	—	25.0	11.4	4.9
224	8	Twinslock	15	—	—	—	—
55	23	Twinslock 12% ULS	60	—	12.0	20.0	—
63	51	Uniolex Holdings	55	—	6.1	11.1	5.9
70	65	Walter Alexander	70	+1	5.8	8.3	7.9



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Secretarial Appointments

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY TO THE EDUCATION OFFICER

Salary range from £2,847 per annum to £3,357 per annum inclusive of London Weighting and supplement

The post of Secretary to the Education Officer (Psychiatric) will shortly become vacant, and applications are invited from candidates who have excellent secretarial skills, a pleasant but efficient telephone manner, are able to help with the daily correspondence and assist in the preparation of papers for the Mental Nurses Committee. Consideration will be given to the payment of proficiency allowances at the end of three months. Lunch vouchers to the value of 15 pence per day are issued, there are 16 days annual leave and there is a pension scheme in operation for members of the permanent staff, and also a generous sick benefit scheme.

For a job description and an application form please contact Mrs. J. Hutton, Personnel Officer, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 25 Portland Place, London W1A 1BA, on 580 8334. Completed application forms should reach this office not later than 18th March, 1977.

Director's Secretary S.W.1

A vacancy has arisen for the post of a Secretary to a Divisional Director at Trust Houses Forte Leisure, whose responsibilities amongst others, include London's Talk of the Town and Manchester's Belle Vue. In addition to good speed and excellent secretarial skills, applicants (male/female) must be used to working on their own initiative.

Good salary and benefits including holiday discounts and 75p-a-day.

Phone Mike Thibouville on 01-930 2373, extension 357 for further details and interview appointment.

TRAINING CONSULTANCY

Needs analysis and training needs assessment for a wide range of organisations. We can help you to identify training needs, design training programmes, select training methods, develop training materials, and evaluate training results.

P.A. IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE £3,500

Well educated and experienced P.A. to a senior executive in Knightsbridge. Excellent salary and benefits. Immediate start.

01-629 3669  
01-629 7363

ARE YOU A Cosmopolitan person? This magazine is looking for a young, energetic, and creative person to help with the day-to-day running of the magazine. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of the fashion and beauty industry, and be able to work independently.

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TEMPORARY TEACHER OF Shortland (Pitman) and Typewriting. We are looking for a temporary teacher to assist in the training of new recruits. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of the Shortland and Typewriting systems, and be able to teach effectively.

MUSIC PUBLISHING needs young people (18-25) to help with the day-to-day running of the company. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of music, and be able to work independently.

GRADUATES with some secretarial training, temp. posts in 1977. We are looking for graduates with some secretarial training to fill temporary positions in 1977. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of secretarial work, and be able to work independently.

WEST END POSITIVE AGENTS required for 1977. We are looking for positive agents for the West End in 1977. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of the West End, and be able to work independently.

YOUNG SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT required for 1977. We are looking for a young secretarial assistant for 1977. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of secretarial work, and be able to work independently.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT required for 1977. We are looking for an international secretarial assistant for 1977. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of international secretarial work, and be able to work independently.

RECEPTIONIST/LINGUIST required for 1977. We are looking for a receptionist/linguist for 1977. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of receptionist/linguist work, and be able to work independently.

BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY Receptionist/Linguists (permanent and temporary). We are looking for receptionist/linguists for the British Tourist Authority. The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of receptionist/linguist work, and be able to work independently.

Home Furnishings. Showroom staff wanted by small, friendly, West End Wholesale Company. Knowledge of or interest in furniture a plus. Salary range £2,000 to £2,500.

YOUNG ENERGETIC PERSON. Able to type and to work with a minimum of supervision. We are looking for a young energetic person who is able to type and work with a minimum of supervision.

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY. Worthwhile and interesting work. We are looking for a person who is interested in worthwhile and interesting work.

MASSAGE PUBLISHER. Good salary and benefits. We are looking for a massage publisher with a good salary and benefits.

RECEPTIONIST/LINGUIST. We are looking for a receptionist/linguist.

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SECRETARIAL

CHARITY

Project Director. We are looking for a project director for a charity project.

Subsidiary of Large American Mining Co. We are looking for a subsidiary of a large American mining company.

Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. We are looking for a position at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

PERSONAL SECRETARY. We are looking for a personal secretary.

WE'LL PUT THE UP IN YOUR CHEER! We are looking for a person who can put the up in your cheer.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU. We are looking for a position at the Joyce Guinness Bureau.

CAN YOU ORGANISE EUROPEAN STUDENTS? We are looking for a person who can organise European students.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU. We are looking for a position at the Covent Garden Bureau.

DIAMOND INVESTORS. We are looking for diamond investors.

ADMIN. ASSISTANT in Financial. We are looking for an administrative assistant in a financial position.

SPECIALIST SECRETARIES for Bi-lingual. We are looking for specialist secretaries who are bi-lingual.

ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN. We are looking for an assistant chairman.

PERSONAL SECRETARIES. We are looking for personal secretaries.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT. We are looking for an international secretarial assistant.

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**BP Oil Assistant**  
COMPANY SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
BP Oil Limited, BP's UK marketing and refining subsidiary, requires an Assistant to its Company Secretary's Department of a medium or large sized company with several subsidiary and associated companies. The successful applicant will undertake a wide range of duties for which a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of UK Company Law and corporate secretarial practice is necessary. Applicants, aged 24-32, should be Chartered Secretaries with 2-3 years' experience at a relatively senior level in the Company Secretary's Department of a medium or large sized company with several subsidiary and associated companies. Career development prospects lie within the BP Group. Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and London Allowance of £600 p.a. The company offers a non-contributory pension scheme and other large company benefits. Please write giving brief details of age, qualifications and experience to: C. J. Metcalfe, Manager, Recruitment Branch, BP Oil Limited, BP House, Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NL.

EXPERIENCED TYPIST

Intelligent person, prior experience in typing, and a good knowledge of shorthand. Salary £2,000 p.a.

Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges. We are looking for a person who can help with educational visits and exchanges.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. We are looking for a person who can help with the Royal Academy of Arts.

STARTING YOUR CAREER? We are looking for a person who is starting their career.

YOUNG COMPANY. We are looking for a person who can help with a young company.

BRIGHT SECRETARY. We are looking for a bright secretary.

A MATURE SECRETARY required for top executives in Mayfair. We are looking for a mature secretary for top executives in Mayfair.

MARKETING P.A. (short-term) essential for short-term work. We are looking for a marketing P.A. for short-term work.

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SECRETARIAL

ARABIC/ENGLISH SPEAKING

Secretary/RECEPTIONIST. We are looking for a secretary/receptionist who speaks Arabic and English.

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SECRETARIAL

2 Very Special People!

Two non-Technical/Secretarial Assistants desperately required for Architects office opposite Cambridge Passage, Islington. Informal and busy atmosphere, organisational ability and initiative essential. Should be capable of programming, own and others work. Starting salary up to £2,000.

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS. We are looking for a person who can help with domestic situations.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. We are looking for a person who can help with the Royal Academy of Arts.

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SITUATIONS WANTED

DOCTOR'S WIDOW, 45, S.R.N.

and qualified children's nurse seeking interesting job, home or abroad. Tel: Derby 45152

FAVOURABLE WRITER/MUSICIAN required by writer's daughter, 26, good knowledge of music, piano, singing, and dancing. Tel: 01-577-1044

FLAT SHARING. We are looking for a person who can help with flat sharing.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. We are looking for a person who can help with the Royal Academy of Arts.

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BRIGHT SECRETARY. We are looking for a bright secretary.

A MATURE SECRETARY required for top executives in Mayfair. We are looking for a mature secretary for top executives in Mayfair.

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**Influence of Europe on new American cars**

though the Ford Model T was once assembled in Manchester and Berlin, American and European cars have tended to develop along separate lines. The differences are explained by geography and economics.

Among the most important factors about the United States are its size, wealth, and until Vietnam and Yatergate, at least its relentless self-indulgence. So it is no surprise that American cars have traditionally been large, powerful and wasteful of oil space and fuel.

A country of wide, straight roads, here it is nothing to drive 200 miles in a dinner date, has produced a personal transport of bus-like dimensions in every trapping of affluence. Air conditioning and automatic transmission come before miles to the gallon.

European cars are smaller because space is at a premium and the roads are more crowded and less prosperous. They ride and handle better than American cars because they have to negotiate a greater proportion of twisting and hilly roads with inferior surfaces. European cars, notably the Volkswagen Beetle, have sold well in the United States, but not the other way round.

Gradually, though, the distinctions between American and European cars are becoming blurred. Until the 1960s American cars were either big or very big. Then a new category arrived, the sub-compact, roughly equivalent to our medium car.

Now a new label may have to be devised to embrace the truly small cars which American manufacturers are bringing out in response to the European market. Significantly, they are all European designs.

General Motors has already introduced its Chevette, similar in size and style to the Vauxhall model. Ford is selling the even smaller Fiesta in America and Chrysler's future models include a car code-named the C2, which will probably start life as the 1100 replacement before moving to Britain and the United States.

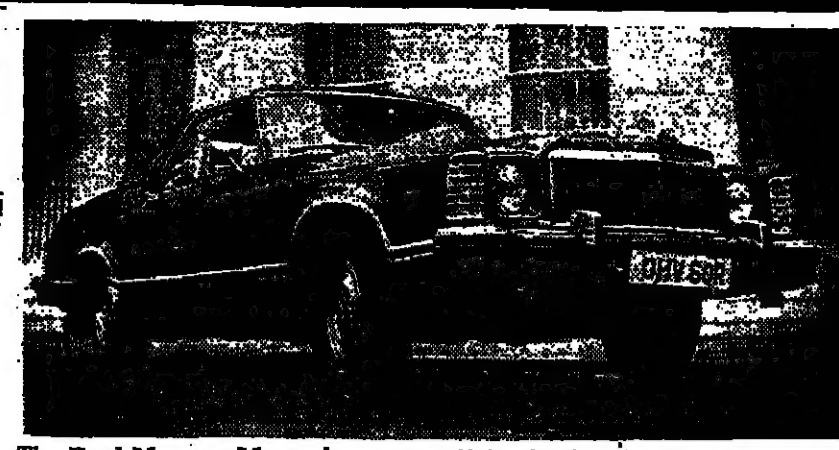
Whether American motorists will welcome the trend remains to be seen. Certainly the Chevette has not been topped. But if nothing else, the U.S. Government's insistence on a 40 per cent fuel economy improvement in fuel consumption by 1980 is bound to intensify the move towards smaller cars.

American-designed cars, in turn, will have an increasingly European flavour. Not for nothing are Europeans getting more of the top jobs in Detroit. Mr. Roy Aze, for example, the British who designed the Alpina, is now in America as design executive for the Chrysler Corporation.

It may, however, be some time before American cars have a significant appeal on this side of the Atlantic. In Britain, the combined sales of American cars, Cadillacs, Buicks, Pontiacs and Chevys cannot be more than a few hundred a year.

The latest American model to be introduced here in right-hand drive form is the Ford Mercury Monarch. Mercury is to Ford what Buick is to General Motors, not as prestigious as the Lincoln or the Cadillac, but a cut above the company's other models. A rough British analogy is Rover.

The Monarch is available here in



The Ford Mercury Monarch—now available in right-hand drive.

four-door saloon and two-door coupé versions, costing respectively £7,225 and £7,165. It has a 4.9 litre V8 engine developing 134 bhp and automatic transmission, and power-steering are standard. The mechanical specifications are conventional: rear-wheel drive, recirculating ball steering, leafspring rear suspension and disc front brakes.

Styling is in the eye of the beholder, but apart from a typically flamboyant radiator grille, the Monarch makes a fair attempt to disguise its origins. What it cannot disguise is its size: though classed as a compact, it is very big in European terms, being nearly 16 ft long and 6 ft 2 in wide.

You have to go to Rolls-Royce or the upper reaches of the Mercedes range to find something as big in Europe, and even then only the Rolls Camargue and Phantom are both longer and wider. To put it mildly, the Monarch is not the easiest of cars to manoeuvre in heavy traffic or to park.

The size, and hence the weight, coupled with the big engine, inevitably means modest fuel economy. The Monarch turned out 13.6 miles to the gallon in town and 17 on the open road, though very gentle driving could push the figure up towards 20. The car will, however, run on three-star fuel.

Despite its length, the Monarch is not particularly roomy inside, and for its engine capacity not exceptionally fast. While European car manufacturers try to squeeze every inch of space and every ounce of power from their vehicles, the Americans have tended to waste both.

Not that the car is exactly slow; it is just that the five litres under the bonnet feel more like three. 0 to 60 mph acceleration took around 11 seconds, or about the same as the 3.4 litre Jaguar which is, incidentally, close to the Monarch in price. The automatic lackdown means ample power for overtaking and the claimed top speed is 106 mph.

The handling and ride are more American than European. The suspension is very soft and the old-fashioned leaf-spring layout at the back gives an indifferent ride over poor surfaces. Nor does the Monarch have the cornering ability of the best European cars and markets are not helped by the vague and very low-gear steering.

But if it is not the car to be pushed hard along winding country lanes, the Monarch does come into its own on the motorway. Even under fierce acceleration the engine remains strikingly smooth and quiet, helped by the generous level of sound insulation that a large bodyshell makes possible.

In fact, the main appeal of the car is precisely this: "American" ability to cover long distances in a relaxed fashion. The seats are good, there is a sumptuous carpet and the car has most of the gadgets you could reasonably want. In Britain the Monarch will not only be different but fairly exclusive. Ford expects to sell around 150 of them this year, so the chances of your next-door neighbour buying one as well are remote.

### Michelin's new radial

Michelin this week announces a new steel-braced radial tyre, the XXZ, claiming "significant advances" in wet grip, noise and comfort levels. It is a

development of, and replacement for, the ZX, which since its introduction in 1968 has become Europe's most popular radial.

The steel radial was virtually a Michelin invention, though the company was far ahead of its time that it had to wait something like 25 years to see the concept win general recognition. Nowadays its advantages over the cross-ply tyre in such important areas as handling and tread life are widely accepted.

Michelin's problem in replacing the ZX, therefore, was how to improve an already excellent product. The company is the first to admit that the improvements are fairly modest, "evolutionary rather than revolutionary". But they do appear to represent genuine gains.

Designing a tyre is rather like designing a car: it must be a series of compromises. In the case of the tyre the aim must be to provide the best possible grip on the widest range of surfaces (which probably means that no one tyre will be outstanding in all conditions), and balancing that against considerations like wear, noise and ride.

In designing the XXZ Michelin decided to use the same casing as the ZX, but to change the tread pattern. It may not be realized that on a dry surface a tyre can give excellent adhesion if the tread is perfectly smooth; the grooves are there mainly to expel water and prevent aquaplaning. The XXZ has more grooves than its predecessor, which is, Michelin says, why it gives better straight-line braking as well as improved cornering adhesion.

The new tyre is also likely to last longer. One Michelin spokesman suggests a life of 54,000 miles, compared with 46,000 miles for the ZX (though these are not absolute figures: it depends on how the tyres are used). The XXZ will be available for new cars in the next few weeks and be on the replacement market by the end of the summer.

Michelin has been making tyres in Britain for exactly 50 years, and has factories at Stoke-on-Trent, Dundee and Belfast. All three will be producing the XXZ.

### More DIY

About half Britain's motorists now service their own cars rather than take them to a garage, according to a survey published this week. That trend is growing: a quarter of motorists questioned said they were doing more work on their cars against 15 per cent who were doing less.

One motorist in five claimed to carry out not only major servicing but repairs as well. One in four felt able to replace the exhaust system, brake parts, alternator and dynamo, one in five to replace shock absorbers, 17 per cent to fit a clutch and 15 per cent to refit a gearbox and engine.

The survey, by International Auto Safety Centres, which operates a chain of service and repair outlets, concludes ruefully that all this do-it-yourself activity is costing the garage trade many millions of pounds a year.

Peter Waymark

## Broadcasting

All life is here: watching 23-year-old cowgirl Sue Pirtle riding rodeos in America for Taste for Adventure (BBC1 8.30) or taking a cool look along with Barry Humphries at a forgotten Dieppe theatre in Omnibus (BBC1 10.15). Then there is the gently humorous comedy of The Galton and Simpson Playhouse (ITV 9.0), with Charles Gray and Freddie Jones as a happy middle-aged couple, and of Human Bondage (BBC2 9.30), Maugham's tragic love story with Laurence Harvey.—T.S.

BBC1	BBC2	Thames	ATV
<p>4.00, Open University: Art &amp; Film 7.25-8.00. Other: 8.00-8.15. Comedy: 8.15-8.30. News: 8.30-8.45. Sports: 8.45-9.00. News: 9.00-9.15. Sports: 9.15-9.30. News: 9.30-9.45. Sports: 9.45-10.00. News: 10.00-10.15. Sports: 10.15-10.30. News: 10.30-10.45. Sports: 10.45-11.00. News: 11.00-11.15. Sports: 11.15-11.30. News: 11.30-11.45. Sports: 11.45-12.00. News: 12.00-12.15. Sports: 12.15-12.30. News: 12.30-12.45. Sports: 12.45-1.00. News: 1.00-1.15. Sports: 1.15-1.30. News: 1.30-1.45. Sports: 1.45-2.00. News: 2.00-2.15. Sports: 2.15-2.30. News: 2.30-2.45. Sports: 2.45-3.00. News: 3.00-3.15. Sports: 3.15-3.30. News: 3.30-3.45. Sports: 3.45-4.00. News: 4.00-4.15. Sports: 4.15-4.30. News: 4.30-4.45. Sports: 4.45-5.00. News: 5.00-5.15. Sports: 5.15-5.30. News: 5.30-5.45. Sports: 5.45-6.00. News: 6.00-6.15. Sports: 6.15-6.30. News: 6.30-6.45. Sports: 6.45-7.00. News: 7.00-7.15. Sports: 7.15-7.30. News: 7.30-7.45. Sports: 7.45-8.00. News: 8.00-8.15. Sports: 8.15-8.30. News: 8.30-8.45. 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